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TOP SECRET  
(INWARD)

1957 CFC

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COPY NUMBER

VA:SHA

## INWARD CABLEGRAM

I.5457.

Dated: 10th April, 1957.  
2115  
Recd.: 11th April, 1957.  
1530

FROM:

Australian High Commission,  
LONDON.

886.

TOP SECRET.PRIORITY.

Addressed Canberra repeated Singapore 21.

Tange from Davis.

Singapore Constitutional Talks.

There is to be a paragraph in the report which may have important repercussions which will state a list of disabilities applicable to voters and candidates for election and which will include those who are in detention on the grounds that they have been acting in subversion of peace, order and good government. There will be further provision that this disability will apply only if a judicial tribunal ruled that on evidence before it, it is proper to state that actions of detainees have been subversive.

2. Lim, Chew Swee Kee and Lee Kuan Yew in fact asked the United Kingdom Government to make this provision but as it could not be admitted publicly that they had done so they requested United Kingdom Government to take onus of decision. Accordingly, the Secretary of State called a special meeting today in which he stated that the United Kingdom Government could not stand by and see Singapore taken over by Communists and therefore did not intend to permit those in detention to have electoral rights. Lim formally protested for the record that this was undemocratic.

3. The Secretary of State had some difficulty but finally persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that, in the circumstances, and for a limited period this would have to be done.

4. This information would be most damaging if it became known and the Colonial Office have requested strict adherence to top secret classification. New Zealand and the United States will be only other Governments informed.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.  
MR. E.J. BUNTING

11th April, 1957.

SEC MR QUINN MR FORSYTH MR WALLER MR KEVIN DR WYNES MR CUTTS  
MR LOVEDAY

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