

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

6/8/68

MB.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

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TO:

Sent: 17th July, 1964.  
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Australian Embassy,  
SAIGON.

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RESTRICTED.

The following statement is to be made by the Minister for Air on 17th July.

R.A.A.F. party for South Vietnam.

An R.A.A.F. party will leave Sydney in two groups this Sunday night, 19th July, and on Monday, 20th July, en route for South Vietnam.

The Minister for Air, Mr Peter Howson, said today that the party would consist of 34 personnel, including eight pilots. Their task would be to fly and maintain the three R.A.A.F. Caribou transport aircraft being deployed to South Vietnam as part of the increased Australian Military assistance recently announced by the Government.

Mr Howson said that the R.A.A.F. party would be under the command of Squadron Leader C.J. Sugden, DFC, of R.A.A.F. Base, Richmond, N.S.W.

Mr Howson said that another flight of three Caribou transport aircraft would be deployed to South Vietnam at a later date. This would necessitate the sending of a second, smaller R.A.A.F. party from Australia to South Vietnam to fly and maintain the aircraft.

Mr Howson said that the Caribou aircraft and men would assist the forces of the Government of South Vietnam in co-operation with United States Forces, as previously announced.

A/MIN. & DEPT E.A. (696/8/4)  
MIN. & DEPT AIR  
MIN. & DEPT DEFENCE  
P.M.'s

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