

24 September 1981

QUESTIONS IN THE SENATE

Envoy visiting Afghanistan, says Guilfoyle

The Opposition Leader in the Senate, **Senator Button**, asked whether it was true that an Australian diplomat was in the Afghan capital, Kabul. Was the visit being kept secret because the official was using a visa issued by a Government not recognised by Australia?

Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that an officer from the Australian embassy in Islamabad was in Kabul. She said a similar visit was made in April. She would seek further information from the Minister.

CHOGM

Senator Keefe (Lab., Qld) asked whether the Government was aware that officers from ASIO and the Federal Police had been sworn into the Victoria Police for CHOGM. He also asked for confirmation that Victorian police had interviewed a member of the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, **Mr Gary Foley**, and had carried out surveillance on **Mr Bruce McGuinness**, director of the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Service.

The Attorney-General, **Senator Durack**, said he would refer the question to the Minister for Administrative Services, **Mr Newman**, as he was responsible for the Federal Police. He would himself consider the question of ASIO involvement.

ORANGELAND

Senator Townley (Lib, Tas) asked whether the fictitious country of Orangeland, now involved in hostilities against Australia in a defence exercise, was really Tasmania turned upside down in the middle of the South-west Pacific. Was the Government aware that there were very few orangemen in Tasmania?

Senator Durack, representing the Minister for Defence, said he doubted that Tasmania constituted a threat to Australia, but it might be a threat to the Federal Budget considering the amount of special assistance received by that State.