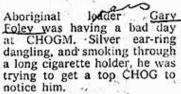
THE AGE

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CHOGM notebook by Geoffrey Barker

It was a trying day indeed for people with something to say



He wandered into a news conference given by President Nyer-ere of Tanzania, determined to be seen and heard. The old African silver fox put on a good show

for the media, but walked out just as the Aboriginal silver earring called: "Mr. President..."

"I wanted to ask him," Mr Foley said later, "given his apparently highly principled stand on South Africa and Namibla, whether it was not a little inconsistent of him to blindly accept Malcolm Fraser's version of the situation of Aboriginal people in Australia. Did he not think his apparent refusal to meet Aboriginal people and hear their side of the story was hypocritical?"

Unhappily, President Nyerere's apparent aloofness was not the only grievance of Mr Foley, who turned out to be a master of the copulative adjective. Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe had also proved hard to meet.

"Mugabe really pissed us off by going to a f . . . white woman, Susan Ryan, to hear the Opposition's version of Aboriginal af-fairs. If we get to f . . Zimbabwe to ask about black Zimbabweans, we wouldn't go to Ian Smith or any of that mob. That's what he's doing. He's accepting the Fraser version and he's going to a bloody white person to hear the other side of the story. That's basic political f ... stupidity apart from hypocrisy".

Surrounded thus by hypocrisy Surrounded thus by hypocrisy and Malcolm Fraser's version, Mr Foley, who is chairman of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee of the Australian Council of Churches, roamed the CHOGM media area giving interviews and looking for visiting black delegates to whom he could impart the non-hypocritical, non-Fraserian version of Aboriginal

Eventually a couple of chaps from Grenada's revolutionary Government sat down for a chat and a drink, and Mr Foley seemed to cheer up. He claimed that CHOGM had been successful "beyond our expectations" in terms of contacts made with delegation members and international media. "It's part of a longer strategy we

have leen developing over five years, he said.

While Mr Foley was thinking five year ahead, harassed officials were thicing only hours ahead as they ttempted to thrash out the final ommunique. There were disagreenings over most subjects in the statment on world affairs. Poland wasa problem. So were the South Pcific, Kampuchea, the So were Mediterranen and the Middle East, Espeially the Middle

One Austrean official, after a particularly bruising morning, emerged for a up of coffee. He drank it down not rose from the table with their of resignation that marks old empagners. "Oh well, back to be Middle East war," he sighed as he trudged

Soon afterwards n a small upper room, the CONIDENTIAL TOP SECRET briefing was given to the Australian Phys by some people who must for yer remain "Australian sources". Here we learned that the final comunique would make an "qualified call" for an immediate six to the global negotiations of North-South issues.

At the same time wefearned that Australia was presng for the establishment of two roups of Commonweaith experts—one to study the obstacles toeffective North-South negotions, the other to study how indstrial protection policies of devoped

nations were disadvantagin developing countries.

The un-nameable Austlian sources tried valiantly to perside reporters, a few of them dong, others valuating is halffing. others yawning, shuffling and coughing that the expert grops were of global significance, ut the cynical consensus seemedo be that if the Australian Gover-ment ignored the tariff reco-mendations of its own expert L dustries Assistance Commusion it was hardly likely to fall ove itself to follow the advice of some group of Commonwealth ex-

Here it seems appropriate to advise readers that the final CHOGM communique will be a masterwork of creation by committee. A first draft has been pre-pared by the Commonwealth ste-retariat. It is submitted to a conretariat. It is submitted to a con-mittee of officials of all 40 cour-tries who amend or redraft the bits with which they disagree. Then their efforts are submitted to the CHOGs themselves who consider it and release it page by page for printing at their final session today.

Thus, by a mighty effort of will and co-operation, the final official version will be released sometime this afternoon, only seven or so hours after you have read the essential details in this morning's paper.

ing's paper.
As CHOGM chugged towards its conclusion yesterday, jaded re-porters were treated to a series of numbing Press conferences by smaller CHOGs.

President Kyprianou of Cyprus, reliably described as the dullest diplomat in the world, began by telling reporters that he wanted to analyse "in a concise way" the Cyprus problem. Thirty-nise Cyprus of problem. Thirty-nise pages of transcript later he concluded that "we do not know what the next development is going to be".

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop

of Grenada blamed the CIA for a lot of the destabilisation of his country. He also received the most intriguing question yet put to a head of state at CHOGM. From the transcript:

Q: Prime Minister, how has your Christian upbringing affected your consciousness of the most grievous aspect of the human con-dition and your achievements in seeing the wounded man on the road and truly being his conrade?

Mr Bishop: I think your question has me at a little bit of a loss. I do not really know what the answer to that is:...

That sort of exchange left you That sort of exchange left you in no doubt that the steam was going out of CHOGM. Not even old Piggy Muldoon could have stirred things up seriously after remarks made by President Nyerere, who was really the star turn of the day.

"I' think he has done his best to provoke a fight", President Nyerere, said in reply to a question about Mr Muldoon, "but I do not think really he has been

do not think really he has been obliged by any of his colleagues, so there has not been a fight. I hope my friend Muldoon will do better next time - if there going to be a next time."

The question of whether there will be a next time for Piggy will be decided in New Zealand on November 28. But whatever high-inded declarations are handed the world in the final confunique tomorrow, this reporter lle most others, will inevitable renember the conference a ... CloGM of the Pig.