

BC-COMMONWEALTH-SHORTS; 0415

WITH PM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA

CANBERRA (CP) - THE SITE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA MEETING IS NOTHING MORE THAN SHEEP-GRAZING PASTURELAND AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY WHEN DISCUSSION FIRST BEGAN ON A CHOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL.

THERE WAS FIERCE COMPETITION AMONG THE STATE CAPITALS; PARTICULARLY BETWEEN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE. IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY WOULD BE LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES; BUT HAD TO BE AT LEAST 160 KILOMETRES FROM SYDNEY; THE STATE CAPITAL.

CANBERRA; WHICH IS DERIVED FROM CANBERRY; THE ABORIGINAL WORD FOR MEETING PLACE; WAS A COMPLETELY PLANNED CITY.

IN 1911; WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN; A 35-YEAR-OLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FROM CHICAGO; WON A WORLD COMPETITION FROM AMONG 137 OF HIS PEERS TO DESIGN THE CITY. THE MAN-MADE LAKE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY; FORMED BY DAMMING A RIVER; IS NAMED AFTER HIM.

CANBERRA (CP) - DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE MONDAY INVOLVING THREE SOUTH AFRICAN WITNESSES WHO HAD APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMITTEE; ONE OF THE ESTIMATED 20 TAPE RECORDERS ON THE TABLE BEGAN TO MAKE A LOUD NOISE.

IN A SCENE SIMILAR TO TRYING TO ANSWER A RINGING PHONE ON A TABLE COVERED WITH TELEPHONES; A RADIO JOURNALIST BEGAN SEARCHING FOR THE OFFENDING RECORDER. AFTER REACHING FOR FIVE OR SIX; HE FINALLY FOUND THE ONE BEEPING AND RETURNED IT TO ITS OWNER - A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN CANBERRA.

CANBERRA (CP) - MAUREEN McTEER; WIFE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK; IS MAKING HER FIRST TRIP TO AUSTRALIA ALONG WITH THEIR DAUGHTER CATHERINE.

McTEER IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF SPOUSES HERE ATTENDING OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS MONDAY NIGHT'S DINNER HOSTED BY AUSTRALIAN GOV. GEN. BILL HAYDEN.

CANBERRA (CP) - THE WEATHER IN CANBERRA THIS WEEK HAS DONE MUCH TO DISPEL ANYONE'S THOUGHTS OF AUSTRALIA AS A SUN AND SURF DESTINATION.

CANBERRA IS INLAND AND HUNDREDS OF KILOMETRES FROM THE NEAREST OCEAN BEACH. AND AUSTRALIA IS IN THE MIDDLE OF ITS WINTER; MEANING TEMPERATURES HAVE GONE BELOW ZERO CELSIUS ON SEVERAL NIGHTS HERE. THERE'S ALSO SNOW ON NEARBY MOUNTAIN PEAKS.

CANBERRA (CP) - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK; AS CHAIRMAN OF THE THREE-DAY COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SOUTHERN AFRICA; HAS THE LARGEST DELEGATION.

CANADA HAS 16 PERSONS LISTED IN ITS DELEGATION; INCLUDING ALLEN KILPATRICK; CANADA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA; AND WALTER McLEAN; THE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS.

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