

Timor radio link traced

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DARWIN. — Special electronic equipment was used to trace a secret radio link to the Fretilin independence movement in East Timor.

A spokesman for the Posts and Telecommunications Department in Canberra, Mr Norm Bennell, said yesterday direction-finding equipment permanently based in Darwin had been used to pinpoint broadcasts at the weekend.

But the group operating the equipment had evaded departmental officers.

Members of the Campaign for an Independent East Timor set up the two-way radio link with a Fretilin radio post somewhere in the East Timorese hills on Saturday morning. They sent and received messages for more than 1½ hours.

The campaign organisers say further transmissions to Fretilin will be made from secret venues near Darwin soon.

Mr Bennell said such broadcasting was contrary to Australian law and against international agreements entered into by the Federal Government.

"In the future we'll endeavor to find out where they're transmitting from, seize the equipment and prosecute the offenders."

No action is likely to be taken against a Federal Labor MP over the broadcast.

The Post and Telecom-

said yesterday that there was no evidence to prove that the MP, Mr Fry, took part.

A spokesman said it was not enough evidence for Mr Fry to admit he had taken part in the broadcast.

He said inspectors from the department had to find either the equipment, or catch people during the transmission.

Mr Fry's Canberra office confirmed yesterday that Mr Fry had "been able to communicate" with Timor.

During the broadcast, tapes were played with messages of support for Fretilin from 10 Federal MPs, including the Deputy Opposition Leader, Mr Uren, the Health Spokesman, Dr Cass, and Backbencher Dr Cairns.

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CIA allegations known in 1974

By a Special Correspondent

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SOVIET AGENTS HAD INFORMATION

Allegations that the US Central Intelligence Agency was trying to suborn Australian trade unions were known to secret agents of the Soviet Union as early as 1974.

Whether the information was passed to Soviet agents in Australia and through them to friends in the unions involved — railways and transport unions — is not yet known, but could emerge in the current US Congressional inquiry into allegations that the CIA was active in union affairs in Australia.

The fact that the Russians knew of alleged CIA activities in Australia while the Whitlam Labor Government was in power is one of the more interesting revelations in the official transcript of the trial in Los Angeles last month of convicted espionage agent Christopher John Boyce.

Mr Boyce was a security clerk in the top-secret Los Angeles "black vault" of the US company TRW Incorporated, which is one of two US companies operating the top-secret US intelligence base at Pine Gap, near Alice Springs, for the US Government.

It was a conversation he held with a former school friend, Andrew Daulton Lee, and his subsequent detailing in writing of allegations about CIA activities in Australia which was used by Mr Lee to blackmail Mr Boyce into supplying code and cypher information to Lee for transmission to the Soviet Embassy in Moscow.

Mr Boyce has alleged that the cyphers were out of date at the time,

having been compromised by the North Korean capture of the US intelligence vessel USS Pueblo. He was nevertheless convicted of espionage by a jury in the US District Court and is now awaiting sentence. Mr Lee is still on trial.

The president of the ACTU, Mr Hawke, has asked trade unions with any firm information of CIA attempts to influence them to produce it for the ACTU, but apparently without success so far, a possible indication that the Soviet KGB preferred to keep local communists in the dark on the matter.

Mr Boyce joined TRW in 1974 and was employed in the highly-classified area of the company's transmission

operations on behalf of the CIA and the National Security Agency.

He said at his trial that he had never intended that his allegations about CIA intervention in Australian unions should be given to the Russians and that when Mr Lee told him he had done so he did not at first believe him.

A copy of the document given to Mr Lee containing the allegations is believed to be in the possession of US investigators and will probably be disclosed at the hearings.

Apart from suggestions that the CIA was involved in attempts to prevent the Soviet musician Georgi Ermolenko leaving Australia in 1974 aboard a US-built Lockheed Orion patrol aircraft containing much highly sensitive American equipment, no concrete information about its alleged activities in Australian union affairs has yet emerged.

Study of Mr Boyce's evidence suggests that it could be difficult for anybody having firm information explaining how he came by it, the Soviet Government being the only organ outside Mr Boyce's immediate circle who knew about the matter until he was arrested.

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