



Centre for
Contemporary
Histories

Revisiting Menzies' national security state

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Cold 'War' and the Australian National Security State

1. Testing circumstances and unusual strategic development and coincidences for policy-makers
2. The attraction of forging a strong nexus between war preparations and national development
3. National security as a necessary means of further shaping an unfinished federation (and preventing its splintering)

Acronyms & Abbreviations



This is, of course, in conformity with the aim of every civilised community to maintain for its citizens the undisturbed and permanent enjoyment of independent nationality, individual freedom and collective wealth. This wealth consists of many aspects – concrete and abstract – such as material prosperity, moral prestige, powers of resistance against aggression. So long as any of these assets are liable to capture, destruction, injury or depreciation at the hands of an enemy, the State must provide for their security. J.D Lavarack, Department of Defence Minute Paper, 'National Security:

STATUTORY RULES.

1940. No. 290.

REGULATIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT 1939-1940.*

WHEREAS it is necessary for the efficient prosecution of the present ^{War} war that peace in industry should be preserved in the Commonwealth:

And whereas, in order to preserve that peace in industry, it is desirable that certain limitations on the jurisdiction of industrial tribunals constituted under the laws of the Commonwealth should be removed and that provision should be made for these tribunals to deal with industrial disputes with greater expedition:

Now therefore I, the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, hereby make the following Regulations under the *National Security Act 1939-1940*.

Dated this sixteenth day of December, 1940.

GOWRIE
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

H. E. HOLT
for and on behalf of the Minister of State
for Defence Co-ordination.

NATIONAL SECURITY (INDUSTRIAL PEACE) REGULATIONS.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Security ^{Order} (Industrial Peace) Regulations.

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the contrary intention ^{otherwise} appears—

“the Act” means the *Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-1934*;

“the Minister” means the Minister for Labour and National Service.

(2.) Expressions used in these Regulations shall, unless the contrary intention appears, have the same meaning as in the Act.

3. Subject to these Regulations, the Act and these Regulations shall, ^{Interpretation} so long as these Regulations continue in force, be construed as if the provisions of these Regulations were incorporated in the Act as amendments thereof.

* Notified in the *Commonwealth Gazette* of 17th December, 1940.
7396.—PAGE 3a.

War preparations, early 1950s



National Security Resources Board, *Defence and Development, 1954*



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The People

National Development

Defence

Agriculture

Supplies

Fuel and Power

Transport and Communications

Manufacturing

Building and Building Materials



Defence Preparations Act, 1951



DEFENCE PREPARATIONS.

No. 20 of 1951.

An Act relating to Defence Preparations necessary during the present International Emergency.

[Assented to 19th July, 1951.]

WHEREAS Australia, in common with the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other nations associated with Australia in the British Commonwealth of Nations and in the United Nations, is pledged to support collective action for resisting international aggression :

AND WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Parliament and of the Government of the Commonwealth, there exists a state of international emergency in which it is essential that preparations for defence should be immediately made to an extent, and with a degree of urgency, not hitherto necessary except in time of war :

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations of Australia will include, in the first place, the raising, equipping and provisioning of the armed forces of Australia in increasing numbers and the equipping and provisioning of armed forces of other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and of the United Nations :

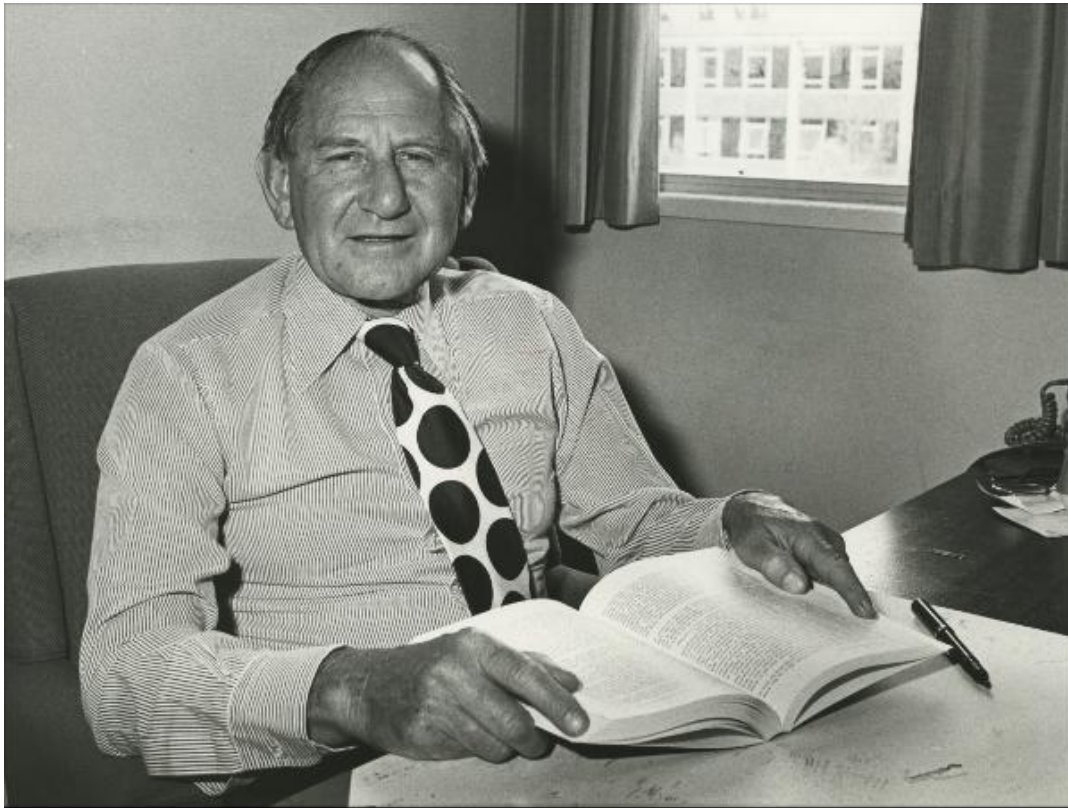
AND WHEREAS the defence preparations of Australia will include also measures to secure the maintenance and sustenance of the people of Australia in the event of war and to contribute towards the maintenance and sustenance of the people of countries associated with Australia in defence preparations :

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations of Australia will include also the expansion of the capacity of Australia to produce and manufacture goods, and to provide services, for the purposes of the defence preparations mentioned in the last two preceding paragraphs and generally for the purpose of enabling the economy of Australia to meet the probable demands upon it in the event of war :

AND WHEREAS in present circumstances the defence preparations mentioned in the preceding paragraphs cannot be carried out without the diversion of certain of the resources of Australia (including money, materials and facilities) for use in, or in connexion with, defence preparations :

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations mentioned in the preceding paragraphs cannot be carried out to the necessary extent, and, in particular, the resources of Australia cannot be diverted to the extent necessary to fulfil the requirements of defence, unless at the same time measures are undertaken for adjusting the economy of Australia to meet the threat of war and for avoiding or reducing economic dislocation or instability caused by, or impeding, defence preparations :

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‘‘This was the central issue, the production of an Australian plan for continental development, in this case devoted to the limited object of the most urgent defence preparations; but considerations of sovereignty and perhaps even parish-pump politics prevented any worthwhile conclusion.’