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U.S. Is Irked by Criticism in Australia

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SYDNEY, Australia, Jan. 3—Anti-American statements by a member of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's new Cabinet, coming on top of other disturbing developments in the normally tranquil relations between the United States and Australia, have irked the United States Embassy.

From Washington's point of view, the news from Australia has been nearly all bad since Mr. Whitlam's Labor party assumed power a month ago, following an election victory over the strongly pro-American conservative coalition that had governed for the previous 23 years.

A series of official acts summarily ending the Australian involvement in Vietnam was capped by a note from Prime Minister Whitlam to President Nixon strongly condemning the recent bombing of North Vietnam above the 20th Parallel.

In reaction to the bombing, Australian maritime unions have ordered a ban on services to American ships in Australian ports. Windows have been broken in the Sydney offices of the United States trade center and Pan American World Airways in recent days, and there have been antiwar street demonstrations.

U. S. Response Mild

American diplomats have taken these incidents more or less in stride, as they had the Whitlam Government's quick recognition of China and East Germany and the abrupt withdrawal of the last Australian servicemen in Vietnam.

The American official reaction to the union move against United States shipping was con-

fined to a routine expression of regret to the Australian Foreign Office, noting the possible adverse economic effects of the boycott in both countries.

However, the termination by Sydney of a \$12-million military aid program for South Vietnam took Washington by surprise. Americans commented that Australia had made this gesture more dramatic than necessary.

There was no special reaction when a prominent critic of the war, Dr. James F. Cairns, the new Minister of Trade and the third-ranking member of Mr. Whitlam's Cabinet, denounced the American policy in Vietnam as one of "deceit and moral bankruptcy."

It was different when the Labor Minister, Clyde R. Cameron, responded to the waterfront ban on American ships with a statement commending "economic pressure" on the United States to influence Vietnam policy.

Two Envoys Re-briefed

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Whitlam summoned home the Australian Ambassador to Washington, Sir James Plim-soll, and the representative at the United Nations, Sir Laurence McIntyre, for briefings on policy under the new Government.

Mr. Whitlam, who is also the Foreign Minister, has let it be known that Australia, long closely allied with the United States in the United Nations, may vote more often in the future with the bloc of developing nations.

One of Mr. Whitlam's earliest acts in office was to order a firmer stance in the United Nations against the white-dominated Government in Rhode-

sia. He switched the Australian vote in the United Nations to a favorable one on the question of "neutralizing the Indian Ocean."

On the other hand, Mr. Whitlam declared in a worldwide radio broadcast that Anzus, the Australia-New Zealand-United States mutual defense pact, was the "crucial treaty" in his foreign policy.

Furthermore, despite the Labor party's opposition to continued Australian membership in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, Defense Minister Lance H. Barnard said this week that Australia would maintain her commitment to the alliance and participate in a forthcoming naval exercise.

The other members of SEATO are the United States, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, Britain and France. France has been an inactive member for years, and Britain's participation has been unenthusiastic.

Factors in Alliances Viewed

There has been speculation here that the Whitlam Government's accommodation to SEATO has been influenced by warnings that withdrawal from it might bring the worth of ANZUS to the United States under question in Washington.

Australian labor extended its protest activities today when the leftist-dominated Sydney Building Construction Workers Union voted to recommend a general union boycott of American goods and services unless the United States signed a truce agreement with North Vietnam by the end of January.

The recommendation must be accepted by state and federal labor bodies to become effective.