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Date: 3.12.2012

HON. THE MINISTER:

Exhibit number: 73

On 14th September, 1989, I met with Mrs. Janine Walker of the State Service Union at her request.

Mrs. Walker alleged that there were some serious problems between the Manager of the John Oxley Youth Centre, Mr. Peter Coyne, and some of his staff. She said that she had received reports from some of her members who worked at the Centre claiming that Mr. Coyne was inconsistent in his handling of staff, was harassing some members and making threats against them and others. She said that the complaints had come from five or six unionists.

After hearing her claims, I gave a commitment to Mrs. Walker that I would investigate any complaints which were put to me in writing.

On 28th September, 1989, I visited the John Oxley Youth Centre at the change-over of the day shifts and spoke to a large proportion of the staff. I told them of my discussions with Mrs. Walker and of my intention to have an independent investigation of complaints if they were confirmed in writing. This proposition was acceptable both to the management and staff.

On Wednesday last, I received a letter from Mrs. Walker enclosing nine letters of complaint against Mr. Coyne, some signed by the authors and others signed under *nom de plumes* such as "very concerned".

I have given the matter a great deal of consideration in the past week or so and I am proposing to recommend to you that the previous Children's Court Magistrate, Mr. Viv Gillingwater, conduct an investigation. Mr. Gillingwater retired in 1988 and would be a suitable person for the task in view of his knowledge of our system and the detention centres that we run. I had planned to discuss this with you prior to making an approach to him to see if he is available.

The reasons behind the request for the four Unions now to meet with you are not known but it would appear that the State Service Union has sought the support of the others in their representations to the Department. If that is so, then they should be satisfied with the contemplated action.

A.C. Pettigrew  
Director-General

17th October, 1989

*John Oxley (Dennis Gillespie)*  
*Staff Ratio*  
*7 or 8 months since made the submission*

*Minister is*  
*very sympathetic*  
*ND & CI & TM*

*Historical assault*  
*man see G & deal*  
*with ultrastals*  
*no alarms in area where*  
*happened*