

FOR PRESS

MINISTERS MEET TO DISCUSS SEX SHOPS AND  
CENSORSHIP

Statement by the Minister for Customs and Excise, the Hon. D.L. Chipp, M.P., on behalf of a meeting of Commonwealth and State Ministers held in Sydney today to discuss sex shops and censorship.

Ministers attending the meeting were :

Mr E.A. Willis,  
Chief Secretary, New South Wales

Mr R.J. Hamer,  
Chief Secretary, Victoria

Mr L.J. King,  
Attorney-General, South Australia

Mr R.H.C. Stubbs,  
Chief Secretary, Western Australia

Mr R.J. Hunt,  
Minister for the Interior

Mr D.L. Chipp,  
Minister for Customs and Excise

The Attorney-General of Tasmania, Mr M.G. Everett, was represented at the meeting.

The Minister for Customs and Excise today indicated that he would amend Customs Regulations in order to control the importation of so-called sex aides of the type now being sold by sex shops. The principle of control would be that while general commercial importation would be restricted, persons would be able to obtain them from Chemist shops on medical prescription.

However, the Minister stressed that Commonwealth control would be ineffective unless there was complementary State legislation to control the distribution, display and sale of both locally manufactured and imported sex aides.

The Minister also announced that a new Commonwealth/State agreement on uniform censorship of literature of merit will be submitted to State Governments for approval and signature.

The draft agreement discussed at the meeting incorporates the principle of a restricted classification for books which will limit the sale of such books to adults and restrict the display and advertising of the books.

The Minister felt that this new classification would afford a greater measure of protection for young persons while allowing some works of considerable merit to be available to adults which might otherwise be totally prohibited.

Complementary State legislation will be necessary in some States before the restricted classification can be brought into operation.

The Ministers agreed that regular meetings of Commonwealth and State officials should take place to consider those publications which fall outside the point of literary merit (paperbacks and magazines) with a view to establishing greater uniformity throughout Australia.

SYDNEY, N.S.W.

12 May 1972