

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 14 October 2002

The **SPEAKER (Hon. I.P. Lewis)** took the chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The **SPEAKER:** I lay on the table the Auditor-General's Report for the year ended 30 June 2002.

Ordered to be published.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The **Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion in relation to the Bali tragedy forthwith and in lieu of the remainder of routine business and grievances.

Motion carried.

BALI BOMBINGS

The **Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** I move:

That this house expresses its horror at the senseless killing of so many people, including Australians, in the terrible bombings in Bali and that the house mourns the tragic loss of life, prays for the injured and expresses its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of all those who are affected by this appalling tragedy; further, that this house calls on the leaders of all nations to work with the Indonesian government in taking the action required to find the perpetrators of this heinous crime and bring them to justice.

The terrible and tragic events that occurred in Bali at the weekend have hit at the heart of Australia. This devastating act of terrorism may not have been on Australian soil but it has hit at our doorstep, at the place where our young people play, a place we parents thought was a safe haven in a troubled world. It is the first time since the Japanese attacks on Darwin and Sydney 60 years ago that large numbers of Australian civilians have been made the deliberate target of what amounts to an act of war. The scale of the Australian loss seems like it will be far too much to bear. The latest information is that 13 Australians have been confirmed dead but the truth is that we fear much higher losses. We have been told there are 110 Australians injured and, terrifyingly, 220 are still unaccounted for.

The state government is in close contact with our federal counterparts to offer our resources and help, and to get as much information as we can about the numbers of South Australians involved. What we do know is that up to 2 900 South Australians were in Bali over the weekend. That is almost one in 500 of our population. So, in different ways, this tragedy will affect our whole community.

This morning I spoke with Sturt Football Club President, Steve Chapman. Twenty members of the club were in Kuta celebrating their SANFL premiership win the previous weekend. Two of the group are still missing: trainer and club stalwart Bob Marshall and Reserves player Josh Deegan. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families who face an unbearable wait for news. I have offered the club access to any trauma or other counselling that it feels it needs.

Eight students and two teachers from Wirreanda High School were due to travel to Bali yesterday. But while waiting in Melbourne for a connecting flight they were called back and, thankfully, are safely home. A group of students from Nuriootpa High School arrived back in Adelaide

yesterday from Bali. They were at the airport when the explosion happened but were not aware of the full devastation until they arrived back in Adelaide. I know their parents must be overwhelmingly relieved to have them back home and safe. Four South Australian teachers were due to travel to Bali for a conference over the weekend. That trip has been cancelled and this morning the education department has suspended all travel to Indonesia until further notice.

As soon as word began filtering through yesterday about the enormity of the attack the state government began organising help for the victims, the survivors and their families. Yesterday my staff made contact with the Office of Foreign Affairs Minister, Alexander Downer, and immediately offered the assistance of South Australian doctors and nurses. The Royal Adelaide Hospital sent three medical teams to Darwin yesterday on two chartered Lear jets. They are treating the injured who are being retrieved by the Royal Australian Air Force from Bali.

Dr Bill Griggs heads the State Retrieval Trauma Assistance Team. Dr Peter Sharley heads a retrieval team and Dr John Greenwood a specialist burns team. These three teams involve ten medical personnel from the Royal Adelaide Hospital with a reputation internationally for their expertise and for their professionalism. They have responded to tragedies before around the world including in East Timor and in the Persian Gulf. They are the best in the business. So far, two female patients, sisters, have arrived here in Adelaide. They are being treated in the Royal Adelaide Burns Unit and I understand family members from Melbourne are on their way to Adelaide to be at their side. It is likely that there will be another retrieval from Darwin later this afternoon.

The Royal Adelaide Hospital is now on standby given the tremendous pressure being placed on medical facilities in Darwin. In preparation, emergency cases are already being diverted away from the Royal Adelaide to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre. The Royal Adelaide has cancelled one elective surgery case today and all metropolitan public hospital intensive care units are now on standby. There is every possibility that a more substantial evacuation of burned and critically ill patients will be made to Adelaide. If this happens, we may need to cancel some elective surgery involving intensive care units in South Australia, and I ask everyone who might be affected by any cancellations to understand that these are exceptional circumstances. This is a crisis and we must all play our part as Australians.

I know everyone would understand that we must bring our injured people back home to South Australia. Some will have terrible injuries and burns. Our mental health services have organised a three-stage response. They have set up a dedicated 'hotline' at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the supervision of Professor Sandy McFarlane, who is a world renowned expert in post-traumatic stress disorder. The hotline number is 1300 661 231. Anyone who wants to discuss the weekend's events will be able to get advice and counselling. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital's Department of Psychological Medicine is establishing and coordinating counselling teams. They will be available to people who arrive back from Bali.

Although they may not be physically injured, these people may have observed the traumatic events and the casualties. Those people retrieved from Bali who need hospitalisation for their injuries will be provided with trauma counselling at each hospital. Their relatives will also be offered counselling support. South Australians are at their best in a crisis. I

understand that they are already responding magnificently to the need for more blood supplies.

In the event of a disaster, a number of key national coordination measures are activated. South Australia is linked into these networks, including intelligence organisations through the police and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Cabinet was briefed this morning, and we will continue to get regular updates on the situation. Shortly before noon, I spoke with the Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer. I told him that whatever resources South Australia could make available would be made available to the commonwealth during this crisis to assist any Australian. Specifically, I offered Mr Downer assistance in the forensic analysis area, trauma counselling and, of course, our excellent medical retrieval services.

SAPOL (South Australia Police) is offering intelligence and investigational support. It is important that everyone arriving back in Adelaide from Bali is interviewed by the South Australia Police. I urge everyone to cooperate with this debriefing process. There may also be requests for assistance with disaster victim identification. The South Australian police force is on stand-by to offer any help necessary. Reports suggest that Australian officials in Bali have worked above and beyond the call of duty, with dedicated Balinese staff working beside them in the most difficult and distressing circumstances.

We know now that we are in a battle, but with whom it is hard to say. We will care for the sick, the injured and the bereaved, but how else can we respond? We must do so not with the rhetoric of revenge against people who may have absolutely no involvement with this vicious act; not with words of hatred of another culture or faith; and not with the easy abuse of a race of people or another way of life in a planet we must all share. I believe we should, as with any other murder, investigate and vigorously pursue those responsible and bring them to trial and to justice. However, first we must find out, not guess, who is responsible and who is really behind this terrible atrocity.

Violent death is unlike any other kind of death, and many of us in our extended families and friendships know what it is like. The loss of a son, a sister or a father by murder or accident fills up the mind with an unendurable darkness that you cannot imagine yourself living through. The innocent are dead and injured. There are parents, children and loved ones to be comforted and wounds to be healed. There are words to be uttered and there are tears to be shed, and in doing so we must all contemplate the fragility of the life we are in on this planet. We should gather evidence carefully and, after much thought and careful debate, choose the course that Australia must take in a different and changing world.

This evening there will be a memorial service at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 5.45 p.m. I will be there, joined by Opposition Leader Rob Kerin and, I hope, other members of this house. This will be a chance to offer our prayers and sympathy to everyone affected by this senseless act, including the innocent people of Bali. I have directed that flags will fly at half mast in South Australia for the rest of this week in honour of those killed and injured, and those who are there fighting to assist them.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion. Terrorism has, most regrettably, reached our doorstep. On behalf of the South Australian Liberal Party I offer sincerest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with those still

awaiting news or concerned at the injuries sustained by family members and friends in Bali. At this stage, our thoughts are particularly with South Australians. Let me say from the outset that the opposition will support the state government's initiatives in response to this tragedy and is prepared to assist wherever possible. We commend the state government for its immediate reaction and the actions that have taken place.

We also commend our medical and other officers who have so willingly taken part in the immediate aftermath. This morning, two victims arrived here and are currently being cared for at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. As far as we can ascertain, about 30 patients are already being cared for in the Royal Darwin Hospital, and many more are yet to come out of Bali. At this time we should acknowledge the longstanding links between the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Flinders Medical Centre and the Royal Darwin Hospital. We should also acknowledge and pay tribute to all the medical specialists who are helping to treat the seriously injured, particularly the team from South Australia led by Dr Bill Griggs.

Now is the time for leadership, a time to unite and a time to respond by assisting wherever we can. Terrorism in any form is to be deplored. The loss of innocent lives is not only senseless but barbaric and cruel. Today, not only Australia but the world is in mourning. Recently, we have seen an attack on a French-flagged supertanker off Yemen and multiple bombings in the Middle East, which have resulted in the loss of innocent lives. Those responsible must be found and brought to justice. First, though, we must support our own community. We must lead and assist our community as the true extent of this most recent event becomes apparent. I particularly call on all South Australians to help wherever they can.

In circumstances like this, any amount of effort, any thoughtful action, is significant. We must think carefully about what we say and how we respond. We must carefully think about how this will affect South Australia and Australia into the future. Life is a great leveller, as seen by the highs and lows of the Sturt Football Club. Just a week ago the Sturt Football Club commenced a period of celebration. Today, the people who make up the club are shattered, with Josh Deegan and Bob Marshall missing. I know Josh's father Brian Deegan well, and my thoughts are with Brian, Angela, Josh's brother Nick, their extended family and many friends.

Likewise, all our thoughts are also with Bob Marshall's family and the many friends Bob has made both through football and through life. What has happened to Sturt is typical of the senseless nature of terrorist acts. The guys from Sturt travelled to Bali to enjoy each other's friendship and to celebrate a successful season. They did not travel as soldiers or adventurers undertaking any risky activity. The fact that this has happened is unthinkable, yet it is a reality of international terrorism. Like September 11, this incident represents a total disregard for innocence and decency. Obviously, this incident has affected hundreds of families in Australia and elsewhere, and our thoughts today are with them.

It is also in moments like this that we must consider and be grateful for those in society charged with protecting us: our own emergency services personnel, doctors, nurses, ambulance workers, the armed forces, defence organisations and the like. As legislators and leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that we do all we can to provide for and protect our communities. Again, at this very sad time, I extend the

Liberal Party's deepest sympathies and prayers for and support to the victims, their families and their friends.

The SPEAKER: I share the concern that has been expressed by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I add to that my belief that the Australian government has acted promptly and responsibly. The ministers involved (from the Prime Minister down) are to be commended for their part in dealing with the matter once the news broke. This parliament itself and other buildings in this city are also at risk. All members need to reflect carefully on not only the motion and the effect that it will have on the conduct of business—knowing as we do that we have made a value judgment to observe the tragedy of the loss of life and the seriousness of the injuries that have been suffered—but also the fact that, in some measure, on the other side of that proposition we gratify the goals of those who perpetrated the act.

This city and buildings like the parliament are, as we have come to expect since European settlement and the establishment of our way of life and the way in which we administer our affairs, open and free for all citizens—indeed, all adult

people who are here. In my judgment, we may—indeed, we do—need to reflect on that. The situation has changed; we are not secure—nowhere near as secure as we would like to be or have been.

With those few remarks, I commend the motion to the house. I invite those who share the views of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in moving and seconding the motion to stand in their places for a minute's silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): As a mark of respect for the victims and their families, I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

Motion carried.

At 2.25 p.m. the house adjourned until Tuesday 15 October at 2 p.m.