

Associations With Asia

AUCKLAND, Today — The Labour Party MP for Waitakere, Ralph Maxwell, who recently returned on a tour of China, Japan and other Asian countries, says the message on the Springbok

tour overseas is quite clear.

He said after talks with New Zealand diplomats and with various Asian businessmen, the message seemed to be: "What on earth are you guys doing?"

"Our people are working very hard to arrange business deals and ties, but the Springbok tour could cause a lot of trouble," he said.

"There's a tremendous amount going on to develop our trade relations with Asian countries. This tour could do a lot of damage."

Overseas countries were watching very closely what was going on within this country.

"They are interested to see what moves the Government might make," he said.

Meanwhile a senior civil aviation official said today that airport authorities could not close their airports or control international or domestic flights and their passengers.

He had been asked about airport authorities' power to prevent the Springbok team from using airports.

The comment came on the eve of what promises to be a tense discussion between Auckland Regional Authority members tonight on a motion proposing that the ARA should deny the Springboks the use of its facilities.

Throughout the country there are 24 joint venture airports where the Government and the local authorities share the cost of the airport and its facilities.

The agreements generally cover running and management of the airport terminal and surrounds but have nothing to do with the operation of aircraft or ability to restrict who can be among their passengers, according to the official.

Seventeen ARA members are now behind the proposal to deny ARA facilities to the

visiting Springbok team. The figure is just one short of the majority needed for the motion sponsored by Mrs Jill Amos to succeed at tonight's meeting of the body.

Two, possibly three, members from the group which has remained uncommitted on the issue are expected to swing behind the motion, which says: "That this authority express to the New Zealand Rugby Union its firm opposition to the Springbok tour, and that it also give notice to the rugby union that, should such a tour proceed, no facilities under this authority's jurisdiction would be made available for any activities associated with the tour."

Custody a field for prejudice

Child custody is a major area of discrimination against lesbians and homosexual men Diane Wilson, spokesman for the lesbian legal advisory committee, told the Gay Rights national conference at Victoria University.

It was expected by the courts, she said, that homosexuals should view their lifestyle as harmful to the welfare of their children.

One court even reasoned that lesbians and gay men should view giving up custodial and access rights to children as the right and proper thing in order to "protect" them from the "danger" of either becoming homosexual themselves or being submitted to a homosexual environment.

Children were being used as pawns to reinforce social and legal disapproval of homosexuality.

Judges gave expression to anti-homosexual prejudice by denying custody or by attaching blatantly discriminatory conditions to the granting of custody, operating on the assumption that a homosexual person could not provide an environment that best served the welfare of the child, she said.

rescue

Police man's body shown 9.30am.

Body found down bank

AUCKLAND, Today (PA). — Police have identified a body found by children on waste land in Ellerslie yesterday as that of Andres Fuscic, 59, a chef, of Mt Wellington.

He had been missing from his home since April 5. Police believe that his body had lain at the foot of a bank for about 15 days. They say they have found no suspicious circumstances.

Birth group given home

The Birth and Beyond group, which is setting up a parent resource and out-of-hospital birth centre in Wellington, has been given premises by the Wellington Hospital Board.

Situated at 38 Owen Street, in Newtown, the large five-bedroom house will become available later this year and will require a minimum of alteration for the group's needs.

A spokesman for the group, Ms Joan Skinner, said the house will be used for births, ante-natal and post-natal classes and as a source of parent support.

The group has been functioning for over a year now, and aims to present the centre as an alternative to existing birth services, providing comprehensive maternity care in a home-like at-

mosphere based on early discharge and follow-up care at home.

The facilities will be for those families, said Ms Skinner, who do not wish to involve high technology as a part of their birth ritual.

Midwives and support personnel, in consultation with medical practitioners, will provide care and birthing assistance.

Ms Skinner said the centre will cater for "low-risk" women who have participated in ante-natal screening and are anticipating a normal birth.

The centre is looking for new members and anyone interested in joining is asked to attend the annual general meeting, which will be held at Crossways, on the corner of Brougham and Elizabeth Streets, at 8pm on April 30.

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