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Press release - Pleas of Guilty

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URGENT RELEASE.

The Premier, Mr. D.A. Dunstan, today suggested that people who had posted to Courts "Pleas of guilty" on Forms 4A and had set out facts to be taken into consideration thereon, should check by phone that they have been received. Calls should be made to Clerks of Court or, where applicable, to the Prosecutions Officer in the Traffic Section, Police Department. On receipt of information that a plea had been posted, application will be made on the date of the original hearing for an adjournment of one fortnight.

Mr. Dunstan pointed out that non-receipt of forms due to the postal hold-up would mean that magistrates would hear cases and impose sentences "ex parte", that is, in the absence of the defendant and without taking into consideration matters put forward in writing.