

Plane may have been Indonesian

PERTH, Tuesday. —
An unidentified aircraft reported flying near Cocos Island last month could have been Indonesian, the Minister of Defence, Senator Paltridge, said today.

Senator Paltridge said it was believed that the aircraft could have been a Badger, a long-range reconnaissance jet bomber used by the Indonesian Air Force.

He said a logical long range navigational exercise for these aircraft would be from Indonesia to Cocos and return.

The unidentified aircraft was only presumed to be a jet because of the sound it made, Senator Paltridge said.

International waters

Owing to cloud cover and the absence of a sight-

ing it was impossible to determine whether the aircraft passed over the island or over international waters in the vicinity.

He said the R.A.A.F. had been told that an unidentified plane was heard over Cocos on July 24.

The R.A.A.F. had also received a report on July 23 of an unidentified flying object at Barrow Island—1,000 miles north of Perth.

This had been seen on June 23, but inquiries showed that no civil aircraft was authorised to be in that area at that time.

The light aircraft could have been one of many based in the north-west which had made a flight without informing the Department of Civil Aviation, he said.