

A SUBMISSION

TO Ms Margaret Swieringa
Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Sub-Committee on the United Nations
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBJECT Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the United Nations in the post Cold War environment.

GENERAL Having made numerous submissions to various Committees of the Parliament, we continue to be concerned at the very limited advertising which is given to calls for submissions such as this and also at the timing of such an advertising, in this case, the exceedingly busy pre Christmas period.

Other priorities have delayed this submission and we will therefore limit our comments to the above and to the following terms of reference:

The suitability of developing a standing army for the United Nations.

The operation and outcome of the United Nations intervention in a number of countries has been abysmal. Much more is to be achieved by a co-operative effort by a number of countries jointly, under the command of one of the countries. INTERFET is a good example of what can be achieved by this procedure.

Should a standing army be established, Australia should have grave reservations about providing funding or allowing Australia's troops to be part of such an army.

The viability of the International Criminal Court.

A number of global 'movements' threaten the sovereignty of Australia as an independent nation. Australia's criminal laws should be made by Australian parliaments and should be administered by Australian courts for Australian people.

Such laws should reflect the wishes of the Australian people and should only be legislated, amended and repealed by Australian parliaments reflecting the will of the people.

Australia should have no involvement with nor be subject to any International Criminal Court.

Australia's role in and response to the United Nations.

One of the major influences (intrusions), in Australia's domestic affairs, of the United Nations is through the medium of various treaties, covenants, protocols etc. In this process there exists a 'democratic deficit' in that the Federal Parliament has no power to allow or to disallow signing and ratification of these 'treaties'. They are signed and ratified by the Executive Government.

Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade continued

Notwithstanding the operation and functions of the joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) this democratic deficit must be eliminated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Calls for submissions to any Federal Government or Parliamentary Committee should be advertised in the early general news pages of all capital city newspapers and national daily newspapers and also announced on national radio and television news bulletins.
- (2) A data base of interested organisations should be compiled for these submissions and direct advice given to them when submissions are being called by the Government or the Parliament.
- (3) Australia should not support the development of a standing army of the United Nations.
- (4) Australia should not support nor participate in nor be subject to an International Criminal Court.
- (5) The Treaty Making Process in Australia should be amended to make it mandatory for all treaties to be approved by a current resolution of both Houses of the Australian Parliament before being signed or ratified.

Denis J Whitely
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