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Mr David Sullivan
Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sullivan

Inquiry into the Commonwealth's treaty-making process

I am grateful to the Committee for inviting me to make a submission in relation to the above Inquiry.

The only submission I wish to make is to draw attention to the dissenting view I expressed as a member of the *Advisory Committee to the Constitutional Commission on the Distribution of Powers* when I recommended the adoption on a trial statutory basis a proposal to require parliamentary approval for Australia's entry into international treaties: *Report (1987)* published as *Appendix J* at pp 233 – 236. It was shared by a member of the *Constitutional Commission*, the late Professor Leslie Zines, even though he too was in dissent on the issue: *Constitutional Commission Final Report (1988)* vol 2 at pp 745 – 6 paras 10,525.

The view we adopted relates to paras (a) and (b) of the Terms of References for the above Inquiry.

I still adhere to that view and am not aware of any developments that would lead me to change my mind on the issue.

I should indicate that I have no objection to this submission being made public.

Finally, if it is necessary to get in touch with me by phone please ring

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Geoffrey Lindell

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