

3 April 2012

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

Inquiry into the Indian Ocean region and Australia's foreign, trade and defence policy.

The Campaign for International Co-operation and Disarmament would like to address the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on the Indian Ocean region and Australia's foreign, trade and defence policy.

Our organisation is mainly concerned with defence postures and implications for Australia.

The armament industry is the most profitable of all enterprises with governments investing billions of dollars in weapon systems, renewing, upgrading and extending these weapons periodically. This money could be used more beneficially for people's needs.

The extension of this trade and spreading it to other countries could start a regional arms race that only benefits the military industries and not necessarily the defence of people.

Many countries border the Indian Ocean, none of them would be classed as a 'threat', nevertheless many of these countries would be anxious about Australia's leanings towards the tension-creating elements of the foreign policy of the United States. For several years, there has been a buildup of United States military installations in Australia and the use of Australia's territory for joint military exercises. Also there are other United States military training activities. Now it has been announced that United States troops will be stationed on our soil.

Recently it was revealed that a secret squadron of Australian troops have been conducting covert operations in Africa and it has been further revealed that these Australian troops are under command of the United States CIA and the Joint Special Operations Command of the United States military .

Australia is not at war in Africa, so this military presence on foreign soil is illegal under international law and a violation of the United Nations Charter.

Referring to Australia's trade policy and mineral exports, Australia should not sell uranium to non-signatories of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (such as India) as this seriously undermines the treaty.

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Secretary

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