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Sent: Wednesday, 8 April 2020 9:46 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Subject: submission - Inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific Region

To the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade regarding the Inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific Region,

The Group of 77, consisting of 135 United Nations member states shall hereafter be referred to using the official Australian government term, "Climate Change." The Climate Change poses an existential threat to western hegemony. For a long time Climate Change member states have begged for assistance, fair and reasonable opportunities for economic, social and industrial development. Western nations have responded to these pleas by donating cluster munitions, sponsoring civil war, regime change, drug and people trafficking. Recently on Australia's behalf, materiel sent to Mali, sex tourism in Indonesia, and support of Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists in Xinjiang. Meaningful reflection must be undertaken to examine past and current responses and to determine whether this served the interests of the people and whether this met the end-point of generating a sense of trust and goodwill in the residents that in turn would manufacture consent from the public of those states to undertake dealings with Australia. The member states of the Climate Change ask China for assistance and are granted assistance. Australia has responded with threats of military intervention and a commitment to "defend," those nations by increasing military expenditure and purchasing materiel from a country dominated by war criminals, France, who have refused to hold the generals responsible for the senseless concentration and torture-murder of over 100 000 Algerian civilians. The committee may be familiar with the famous French author, Albert Camus who wrote the book, *The Stranger*, that attempts to grasp the amoral blasé response of the French Government.

Similarly, Australia's Foreign policy views pacific nations like the protagonists from, *The Collector* or *Lolita*, lasciviously pursuing a vulnerable prize desired but unrequited. Tivalu, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul. Tu. Va. Lu. She has come of age now and Australia finds her rejecting our advances and in the arms of another. Did she have a precursor? She did, indeed she did. Stripped naked, we keep Nauru firmly bound, unable to leave, establishing only a detention and military facility reminiscent of an abuser. Perhaps there was another, " *ibi egressi Troiani, ut quibus ab immenso prope errore nihil praeter arma et naues superesset, cum praedam ex agris agerent, Latinus rex Aboriginesque qui tum ea tenebant loca ad arcendam uim aduenarum armati ex urbe atque agris concurrunt.*"

Australia has constructed its position as completely unethical, domineering and as such any government willing to accept aid from us must actively engage this narrative, spending enormous political capital in the process.

Considering international relations is about relationships, I will to offer some basic relationship advice. There is a theory in the psychology of relationships that some partners will flirt with others because it makes their current partner a better mate. Considering the threat they express more care, attention and affection in response to competition. Some couples thrive on this constant conflict. Sometimes a person will neglect or abuse their spouse. Another person comes along who fulfills their needs and makes their lives happier. Then that person feels abandoned, blames the new spouse and their ex-partner when they

only have themselves to blame by not being receptive to the needs of the other person. This is how I read Australian foreign policy, "The pacific islands belong to Australia how dare they betray us." Sometimes people work it out, for the sake of the children, manage to form a new cordial relationship. Some of those nations have joined a club for battered wives and call it Climate Change. Maybe just shouting more loudly at your partner is only going to drive her away. So when Australia simply plans to broadcast more state propaganda in the hopes of winning hearts and minds, talking over someone, dismissing their concerns or making the conversation about yourself will not communicate that you are listening, nor will simply denigrating them. Climate Change is real and is a force to be actively engaged instead of simply ridiculed and denounced.

08/04/2020

Robert Heron

