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Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
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Committee Secretary

Abolition of Death Penalty

I am opposed to the death penalty (dp). I make the following comments:

We should do all that we can to convince other countries that use the dp to abolish it, as soon as possible

If we are to be influential over the longer term in this matter we need to be consistent, otherwise we risk being labeled as hypocritical like the Indonesians in the Chan/Sukamaran case (I refer to strong lobbying by Indonesia to get their citizens off death row in other countries.)

We also need to adopt a universal approach rather than just a convenient regional approach.

This will necessitate taking the campaign to the USA. We do not like ruffling the feathers of the US but if we are serious we simply cannot pick and choose just to suit ourselves.

Last, I think that our language, while always courteous should make it absolutely clear that we are dealing here with

It is state ordered and carried out murder. It should be referred to in those terms

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