

## INTRODUCTION

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The Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade conducted a two day seminar on the ANZUS Treaty on 11 and 12 August 1997. The seminar was one of a series being held by the Committee on issues of foreign policy and defence issues. This report is a transcript of the proceedings of the seminar.

The Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States was signed by representatives of its member states on 1 September 1951, and ratified on 29 April 1952. The alliance formalised under the auspices of the ANZUS Treaty has been a central pillar in Australia's national security policy for over 45 years. During that period international relations have progressed remarkably and the circumstances which led to the foundation of the alliance have changed. There have also been significant internal changes within the alliance resulting from New Zealand's prohibition of nuclear powered ship visits in the mid-1980s. The Committee felt that it was now an appropriate time to examine the role of ANZUS in the light of these changes. The Committee also wished to provide a mechanism by which the general community, and the Parliament in particular, might be informed about the value of the alliance to Australia's national security.

The seminar was divided into eight sessions, covering the history of the Treaty, the policies and attitudes of the three signatories, factors influencing ANZUS such as the Asia Pacific region in the post Cold War period, ASEAN perspectives, the nature of the alliance today, and the prospects for the future. There was considerable discussion on the New Zealand position and its impact on the Treaty. Also discussed were the Five Power Defence Arrangement and the ASEAN Regional Forum. A full record of proceedings forms the basis of this report, and readers can themselves identify the nature and character of the presentations and the discussion that followed.

The Committee invited a wide range of participants, not only from the Department of Defence, the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Foreign Affairs, but also from the academic community, the diplomatic corps and the general public. The Committee was very pleased that the United States Ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Genta Hawkins Holmes was able to present the opening address of the seminar, and that Ambassador Richard Teare, Foreign Policy Adviser to the Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command was able to attend and speak. The Committee would like to thank all who participated in the seminar, and particularly those who presented papers. We are also grateful for the assistance provided by the United States Information Service in arranging the seminar to hear Mr Doug Paal, President of the Asia Pacific Policy Centre by video conference link from the United States. A full list of participants is at Appendix 5 of this report.

On the basis of the papers presented at the seminar and the discussions that ensued, the Joint Standing Committee believes that, for Australia and the region, there remain distinct advantages in maintaining the ANZUS relationship, although trilateral activities no longer

take place and the US considers New Zealand membership of the alliance to be suspended. The Committee concludes that the Treaty remains relevant today, despite the many changes in Australia's strategic outlook and believes the Treaty will remain a pillar of Australia's national security policy into the foreseeable future.

Ian Sinclair, MP  
Chairman  
Joint Standing Committee on  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Senator David MacGibbon  
Chairman  
Defence Sub-Committee

## SEMINAR PROGRAM

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### MONDAY 11 AUGUST 1997

|        |                             |                                              |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 9.30am | Welcome and Opening Address | HE Mrs Genta Hawkins Holmes<br>US Ambassador |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|

#### **Session 1 ANZUS Treaty**

|         |                            |                         |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9.40am  | History of ANZUS Agreement | Dr Peter Edwards        |
| 10.10am | The Meaning of the Treaty  | Rt Hon Ian Sinclair, MP |
| 10.35am | ANZUS in Context           | Mr David Spencer        |
| 11.00am | Questions                  |                         |

#### **Session 2 The New Zealand Relationship**

|         |                         |                     |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 11.30am | New Zealand Reflections | Dr Stewart Woodman  |
| 12noon  | Australian Observations | Hon Kim Beazley, MP |
| 12.30pm | Questions               |                     |
| 1.00pm  | Lunch                   |                     |

#### **Session 3 Factors Influencing ANZUS**

|        |                                          |                     |
|--------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2.00pm | The Asia Pacific Region post Cold War    | Professor Paul Dibb |
| 2.30pm | The Economic/Political Interface         | Mr Phil Scanlan     |
| 3.00pm | Changing Technology and Interoperability | Dr Alan Stephens    |
| 3.30pm | Questions                                |                     |

#### **Session 4 The Nature of the Alliance Today**

|        |                                 |                          |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4.00pm | Strategic Practice              | Vice Admiral R A K Walls |
| 4.30pm | The View from the Trenches      | Brigadier Peter Leahy    |
| 5.00pm | Intelligence - Joint Facilities | Mr Allan Behm            |
| 5.30pm | Questions                       |                          |

## **TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 1997**

### **Session 5 Asian Pacific Policies Phase I - US Policies**

|         |                                          |                          |
|---------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9.00am  | US Policies (video conferencing from US) | Mr Doug Paal             |
| 9.30am  | US Policies - a US military perspective  | Ambassador Richard Teare |
| 10.00am | US Policies - an Australian perspective  | Dr Bill Tow              |
| 10.30am | Questions                                |                          |

### **Session 6 Asian Pacific Policies Phase II - Australia and Regional Policies**

|         |                                          |                    |
|---------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 11.00am | Australian Policy Objectives             | Mr Hugh White      |
| 11.30am | Australia and Multilateralism in SE Asia | Professor Des Ball |
| 12noon  | Alliances in North Asia                  | Dr Russell Trood   |
| 12.30pm | Questions                                |                    |
| 1.00pm  | Lunch                                    |                    |

### **Session 7 Asian Pacific Policies Phase III - ASEAN Perspectives**

|        |                                |                        |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2.00pm | ASEAN Perspectives             | Mr Richard Woolcott    |
| 2.20pm | Open Forum - General Questions | All available speakers |

### **Session 8 The Future**

|        |            |                        |
|--------|------------|------------------------|
| 3.30pm | The Future | Professor Ross Garnaut |
| 4.00pm | Close      |                        |