The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report 121

Treaty tabled on 16 August 2011

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America Relating to the Operation of and Access to an Australian Naval Communication Station at North West Cape in Western Australia, done at Washington on 16 July 2008

© Commonwealth of Australia 2011

ISBN 978-0-642-79588-5 (Printed version)

ISBN 978-0-642-79589-2 (HTML version)

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/.

Contents

Me	embership of the Committee	V	
Res	esolution of Appointment	vii	
List	st of recommendations	viii	
1	Introduction		
	Purpose of the report	1	
	Conduct of the Committee's review	2	
2	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America Relating to the Operation of and Access to an Australian Naval Communication Station at North West Cape in Western Australia, done at Washington on 16 July 2008		
	Introduction	3	
	Aim of the treaty	4	
	Background	4	
	The Station	4	
	Very Low Frequency Communications	5	
	Full Knowledge and Concurrence	6	
	Australia's interest in accepting the measures		
	Key obligations	7	
	Costs	7	
	Nuclear proliferation and disarmament issues	8	
	Committee's inquiry into nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament	8	

Conclusion	10
Dissenting Report—Australian Greens	13
Appendix A — Submissions	15
Appendix B — Witnesses	17
Appendix C — Minor treaty actions	19
Minor treaty actions tabled on 20 September 2011	19

Membership of the Committee

Chair Mr Kelvin Thomson MP

Deputy Chair Senator Simon Birmingham

(from 12/9/11)

Members Ms Sharon Bird MP Senator the Hon Helen Coonan

(until 23/8/11)

Mr Jamie Briggs MP Senator David Fawcett

(from 23/8/11)

Mr John Forrest MP Senator Scott Ludlam

Ms Sharon Grierson MP Senator the Hon Lisa Singh

Ms Kirsten Livermore MP Senator Matthew Thistlethwaite

Ms Melissa Parke MP Senator Anne Urquhart

Ms Michelle Rowland MP

The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP

Committee Secretariat

Secretary James Catchpole

Inquiry Secretary Kevin Bodel

Andrew Gaczol

Administrative Officers Heidi Luschtinetz

Michaela Whyte

Resolution of Appointment

The Resolution of Appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties allows it to inquire into and report on:

- a) matters arising from treaties and related National Interest Analyses and proposed treaty actions and related Explanatory Statements presented or deemed to be presented to the Parliament;
- b) any question relating to a treaty or other international instrument, whether or not negotiated to completion, referred to the committee by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament, or
 - (ii) a Minister; and
- c) such other matters as may be referred to the committee by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and on such conditions as the Minister may prescribe.

List of recommendations

2 Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America Relating to the Operation of and Access to an Australian Naval Communication Station at North West Cape in Western Australia, done at Washington on 16 July 2008

Recommendation 1

The Committee supports Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America Relating to the Operation of and Access to an Australian Naval Communication Station at North West Cape in Western Australia, done at Washington on 16 July 2008 and recommends that binding treaty action be taken.