INTRODUCTION

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

MONDAY 11 AUGUST 1997

9.30am  Welcome and Opening Address  HE Mrs Genta Hawkins Holmes
         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