

Introduction

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of two proposed treaty actions tabled on 8 October 2003¹ specifically
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, done at Almaty on 7 May 1997*
 - *International Labour Organization Convention No. 182: Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour done at Geneva on 17 June 1999.*

Briefing documents

- 1.2 The advice in this report refers to the National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for these proposed treaty actions. Copies of the NIAs are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were

1 *Senate Journal*, 8 October 2003, p. 2473 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 8 October 2003, p. 1217.

prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.

- 1.3 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

Conduct of Committee's review

- 1.4 The Committee's review of the treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.² In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.5 The Committee also took evidence at a public hearing held on 13 October 2003. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearing is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearing can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's internet site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm>.

2 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 29 October 2003. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.