

Ian Dumbrell*Jabiru, N.T.*

From: "Ian Dumbrell" <ian.dumbrell@bigpond.com>
To: <Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 5 October 2002 6:48 PM
Subject: Timor Seas Agreement

6-10-02

Sat 5.10.02

To: Julie Bishop MP, Federal Parliament

Dear Ms Bishop:

I write to express my concern about the Timor Seas Treaty. I don't fully understand the detail of the argument on both sides, but I do understand that there is a perception of unfairness in Australia's negotiation of this treaty, felt at high levels in political circles in East Timor. As well, the Treaty seems to go against the usual practice of arbitrating these disputes through the designated international maritime boundaries institution. Australia's motivation in acting in this way seems to be simply monetary gain.

Such a motivation seems very short-sighted to me. A stable, prosperous, well capitalized East Timor will be a security and economic bonanza for Australia. Taking money away from East Timor will ultimately cost us money in the long term.

The other issue is the one of good relations, or building social capital for Australia in East Timor. Witness the long term influence the United States had on Western Europe after WW2 consequent on the U.S.'s investment in Western Europe through the Marshall Plan. Where is Australia's version of the Marshall Plan for East Timor?

I think alot of people in Australia do not understand the unfair dealing that we are practising on East Timor. If they did, they would remember Australian involvement in East Timor in September 1999 and wonder why we had departed from that previous course of disinterested sponsorship of best outcomes in East Timor.

Best wishes in deliberating on this issue.

Thank you

Ian Dumbrell

*Jabiru, NT; in response to recent Committee meeting
 in Darwin, last week
 (6.10.02)*

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