

29-APR-2002 15:14 FROM

The Secretary  
Joint Standing  
Committee on Treaties  
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(2 pages in all)

TO 0262774827

P.01

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29 April 2002

Treaties tabled on  
12 March 2002  
Submission No. ....15.....

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please consider my comments  
on two proposed international treaties below.

1) International Convention for the Suppression  
of Terrorist Bombings:

- This Convention must not infringe upon the basic civil liberties of citizens, which democracies are designed to protect. You are not going to stop terrorism, by imitating oppressive laws of those countries in which terrorism flourishes.
- The Convention must focus on being able to trace and monitor the weapons and actual bomb-making materials, which violent-minded individuals usually rely upon, to implement their ideas.

On no account should imprisonment, or "detention", without access to a lawyer, be considered. On no account should detention without charge, or some genuine evidence, be considered. If you suspect people of planning terrorist acts, then have the police follow, or watch them, until they find - or do not find - the needed evidence. Today there is a wonderful plethora of technological

devices available to authorities, to "spy" on the citizens of democracies, it seems. There is no excuse to employ the dictatorship-style tactic of detaining human beings without charging them of a crime first.

However, before you allow a citizen to be spied upon for the purpose of seeking evidence, you must have adequate reason to spy upon him or her. The permission of a judge must first be given, for the police to spy on a citizen - so you must have sufficient reason to suspect this citizen of terrorist inclinations to begin with.

Without following adequate protocols of justice and law in these matters, you will degenerate into dictatorship-style behaviours, which will nullify the whole point of this Convention anyway. This point is to protect the safety and lifestyle of free citizens in our democracies, just in case you, and the Committee on Treaties, have forgotten it, in the massive media-induced hysteria following September 11.

2) Convention on Recognition of Qualifications in European Region Concerning Higher Education.

There must be mutual recognition of such qualifications, between Australia and the European Region.

I DEFINITELY WANT TO BE ON YOUR "TREATIES MAILING LIST," PERMANENTLY.

Yours faithfully,  
J. G. Lewis