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13 JUN 2003

TT May June 2003  
Submission No: .....5.....

BY:.....

**Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste relating to the Unitisation of the Sunrise and Troubadour Fields**

Invitation from the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties into the Timor Sea Treaty to comment further on the above agreement

**The Sunrise Commission**

- Based on the crucial importance of the oil revenue to the future of Timor-Leste (National Interest Analysis, Annex 2) it is, therefore also crucial that the Government of Timor-Leste has an appropriate input to the management of the Sunrise Commission.
- The proposal to have a two (Australia) one (Timor-Leste) representation on the Commission is appropriate if one looks only at the total financial value of the oil field to both countries.
- It is not appropriate when two other issues are taken into consideration. First, that the income stream from the oil field is crucial to the future of Timor-Leste and second, the inexperience of the representation from Timor-Leste in this matter and many other matters relating to international policy and management.
- If Australia truly has the interest of Timor-Leste in mind (which seems to be the public policy) and keeping in mind the growing 'arc of instability' in our region, it seems appropriate that Timor-Leste has at least equal representation on the Sunrise Commission. This would allow their representation more flexibility in terms of skills and day-to-day oversight of the operation.
- Given that this operation will run more smoothly in an atmosphere of trust this change to the treaty seems appropriate and just.

I hope this change can be made.

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12 June 2003