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From: Harmony Forest [SMTP:paradise@harmonyforest.com.au]
Sent: Saturday, August 05, 2000 5:25 PM
To: jsct@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the World Trade Organisation

To The Secretary of the Inquiry

I would like the Inquiry to register my deep concern with the present policies being applied in Australia's international trade relationships in general and the approach to tariffs and to WTO disputation in particular. It seems to me that Australia is getting the short end of the stick in negotiations concerning world trade. The Howe Leather Case seems to be only one glaring example of our country's capitulation to the the behemoth trade blocks, in this case the United States. The existence of U.S. Government assistance to Howes' American competitors does not seem to have been a major factor wielded in the negotiations with the WTO in this matter.

In short, I believe that Australia should be taking a highly commercial hardline in its world trade negotiations. The question of what is of practical benefit to Australia in the long term should be the applicable criterion, not the social or political agendas of impractical dreamers, whether they be the present Australian negotiators or the members of the "International Industry" on the other side of the table.

I hope that the findings of your Inquiry support the the need for a shake out in Australia's present trade negotiations, less towards benefits for the powerful trading countries and more toward providing for the economic long term health of the many citizens being badly affected by the present situation.

Yours sincerely

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