

DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
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Mony Evans



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade

REPORT ON A VISIT BY
THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE COMMITTEE
OF THE NEW ZEALAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 1989



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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Defence and Trade

REPORT ON A VISIT BY
THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE COMMITTEE
OF THE NEW ZEALAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 1989

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ISBN

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

35th Parliament
Main Committee

Chairman: Mr G N Bilney, MP

Deputy Chairman: Hon W J R MacKellar, MP

Senator N Bolukas (to March 1988)

Senator B K Childs (from March 1988)

Senator N A Crichton-Browne

Senator R Hill

Senator G N Jones

Senator D J MacGibbon

Senator P A McLean (from March 1989)

Senator W J Macklin (to March 1989)

Senator G R Maguire

Senator J Morris

Senator C Schacht

Senator G E J Tambling

Senator J Vallentine

Mr P J Baldwin, MP

Mr G Campbell, MP

Mr D E Charles, MP

Mr M D Cross, MP

Mr R G Halverson, OBE, MP

Mr N J Hicks, MP

Mr D F Jull, MP

Hon R C Katter, MP

Mr L Kent, MP

Dr R E Klugman, MP

Mr J V Langmore, MP

Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP

Mr G B Nehl, MP

Mr R M Ruddock, MP

Mr J L Scott, MP

Mr R F Shipton, MP

Dr A C Theophanous, MP

Secretary to the Committee:

Mr P N Gibson, MC

MEMBERSHIP OF THE DELEGATION
FROM THE NEW ZEALAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Ms Sonja Davies, MP (Chair)
Mr Trevor Mallard, MP
Mr Geoffrey Braybrooke, MP
Mr Doug Graham, MP
Mr Maurice McTigue, MP

Committee Secretary: Mr Paul Fitzgerald

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 Five members of the New Zealand Parliamentary Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence visited Australia between 28-31 August. They completed a program of meetings and discussions with the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Ministers and officials. The visit was a marked success and furthered the already close relationship between the two countries and the two Parliaments.

1.2 Australian and New Zealand parliamentarians have benefited from exchanges of delegations for the past ten years as a result of the Fraser/Talboys Agreement. The main purpose of such visits was to allow members to increase their knowledge of the other country.

1.3 During Prime Minister Lange's visit to Australia in 1988 he discussed with Senator the Hon Kerry Sibraa, President of the Senate, and Mr L B McLeay, MP, (then) Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, the possibility of developing a system of visits which would allow joint meetings of Australian and New Zealand parliamentary committees. Following further consultations it was agreed that the annual delegations under the Fraser/Talboys Agreement should be replaced for a trial period of two years, by exchange visits by committees of the two parliaments.

1.4 The visit by the New Zealand Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence completed an exchange which began with a visit by the former South Pacific Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to New Zealand from 18-22 April 1989.

1.5. The purpose of the visit by the New Zealand delegation was to discuss matters of mutual interest in the foreign affairs, defence and trade areas with this Committee, and to hold discussions with appropriate parliamentarians, Ministers, and officials. In addition to general information gathering, the system of committee exchanges allows both visiting and home committees to develop their understanding and expertise on topics of particular interest to those committees.

Arrangements

1.6 The cost of the visit was divided between the two countries - the host Parliament meeting the internal costs of the visiting committee, while the airfares to and from Australia were met by the New Zealand Parliament. As the visit coincided with the pilots' strike, alternative train travel arrangements within Australia were funded by the Australian Parliament. The visit also coincided with a very heavy schedule for the Parliamentary Relations Office. Accordingly the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade managed much of the administrative detail for the visit, with the help of the Parliamentary Relations Office.

1.7 The Australian Parliament provided an escort officer, Ms Judy Middlebrook, and the New Zealand Government made arrangements for the visiting committee to be accompanied by Ms Eileen Besser, an officer from the Ministry of External Relations and Trade. The New Zealand High Commission designated Mr Geoff Ward as liaison officer. Mr Paul Fitzgerald supported the New Zealand delegation as secretary. The Committee wishes to record its thanks for the high level of support offered to the visitors by all those who were involved in the organisation and administration of the exchange.

Program

1.8 Details of the program are at Appendix 1 to this report.

1.9 The program was originally designed to allow four full days of meetings (as recommended in the Report of the visit to New Zealand in April 1989). The program was abbreviated to three full days because of commitments by members of the New Zealand delegation. In the event, the program was further shortened, in part because of Parliamentary commitments by Australian participants and in part because of the pilots' strike, which caused the visitors to leave Canberra by train earlier than scheduled in order to fulfil other arrangements. The program was re-arranged in order to give priority to joint sittings of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and the New Zealand Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. Nevertheless the time available for discussion was felt by all concerned to be too short.

Joint Press Release

1.10 At the joint meeting of 31 August 1989 the Committee resolved to issue a press release relating to the meeting. This is attached at Appendix 4.

PART 2

REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS

Meetings with the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

2.1 The main objective of the visit by the New Zealand Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade was to hold discussions on a range of issues with this Committee. The first programmed joint meeting was delayed by almost two hours because of the unexpected election of a new Speaker of the House of Representatives. A brief joint meeting was held on 29 August 1989. The two committees continued discussions during part of a scheduled meeting of this Committee on 30 August 1989, and a third joint meeting was re-scheduled for 31 August 1989. The Agenda for the meetings on 29 and 31 August 1989 are at Appendix 2. There was no formal agenda for the discussions on 30 August 1989.

2.2 At the beginning of the first meeting it was agreed that the Procedures adopted for the joint meeting of the two committees in New Zealand should be used during the current meetings. These Procedures are at Appendix 3 of this report.

2.3 The Chairman (Mr Gordon Bilney, MP) and the Deputy Chair of the joint meeting (Ms Sonja Davies, MP) agreed that the press would be permitted to stay for the duration of the meeting on 29 August 1989. The press did not attend the other meetings of the committees.

2.4 Following opening statements by the Chairman and the Deputy Chair discussion of the first substantive agenda item commenced. The flavour of the discussion reflected the fact that the New Zealand Government's decision was imminent on New Zealand's participation or otherwise in the ANZAC Frigate project. The meeting of 29 August 1989 was wholly taken up with

defence/strategic issues (Agenda item 2). Discussion on this topic continued at the meeting of 30 August 1989. The remaining items were considered at the re-scheduled meeting on 31 August 1989.

2.5 Discussion at all meetings was frank and forthright particularly during consideration of defence/strategic issues. At times there were as many views as there were speakers, but there was also a considerable measure of agreement on most topics.

Other Meetings/Briefings

2.6 Following the practice established during the Australian Committee visit to New Zealand earlier in the year, the visiting delegation took the opportunity to make appropriate calls.

2.7 Meetings were held with the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Kerry Sibraa, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon M J Duffy MP, the Minister for Defence, Hon K C Beazley MP, and members of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. The visiting delegation also held briefing meetings with the New Zealand High Commissioner (His Excellency Mr Edward A Woodfield) and with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). A planned meeting with officials from the Department of Defence had to be cancelled in order to allow the re-scheduled joint meeting of the two committees.

2.8 The meetings and briefings emphasised the strong, almost familial bonds between Australia and New Zealand. This was particularly noticeable during discussions of problems perceived to be common to both countries, such as environmental degradation and the need for more coherent aid delivery. Nevertheless the different views held on other topics highlighted the need for both countries to work at the relationship. In this regard the continuation of joint meetings between committees of the two parliaments can be a valuable resource.

Areas of Discussion**Defence**

2.9 Defence issues were discussed during the first and second joint sittings under the agenda item "Defence options and the prospective strategic environment facing Australia and New Zealand". Defence was also discussed during the meeting and dinner with the Minister for Defence (Hon K C Beazley MP), but as this was a private meeting it will not be included in this report. The following matters were discussed at the joint meetings.

2.10 The imminent decision by the New Zealand Government on possible participation in the ANZAC Frigate project dominated and coloured discussion on defence issues. (The visit by the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee coincided with meetings in Australia between New Zealand and Australian ministers which addressed the Frigate project). As in the April joint meeting in New Zealand, members of the Australian committee were dismayed to learn that some New Zealand members perceived the Frigate project as an Australian project which the Australian Government was attempting to impose on the New Zealand Government and people.

2.11 Other topics which permeated consideration of defence and strategic matters were the ANZUS alliance and current New Zealand attitudes to it (particularly in relation to visits to New Zealand by nuclear powered or armed ships), and the strength of the New Zealand peace movement.

2.12 These issues highlighted the variety of views held by members of both committees on the degree to which Australian and New Zealand strategic interests coincided or differed. The close proximity by both countries to the small island nations of the South Pacific was felt to be a significant factor in the

strategic environment. Some speakers felt that there was no substantial distinction between the strategic interests of Australia and New Zealand.

2.13 A viewpoint put by a member of the New Zealand Committee was that, because of its small size and relative isolation, New Zealand views the world differently from Australia. While it feels its special responsibility to the Polynesians, its armed forces and defence budget are so small that it cannot perceive itself in any sense as a "policeman of the Pacific".

2.14 Most members of the New Zealand delegation felt that while there were perceptions of different interests, these differences and even the current controversy over the Frigate program did not endanger the relationship between the two countries. Indeed, it was claimed that New Zealanders on the whole felt decidedly pro-Australian.

2.15 Several members of the Australian Committee put the view that defence involves more than protection from invasion. It encompasses wider responsibilities in the Pacific. It might entail surveillance and port visits, disaster relief and protection of fishing interests. It was suggested that New Zealand could lose favour in the Pacific, as Polynesians came to look to Australia to provide blue water navy capability in the Pacific.

2.16 There followed a lively (and at times impassioned) discussion on overall responsibilities for the defence of the South Pacific region, and the role of Australia and New Zealand in this. A view was expressed by an Australian committee member that New Zealand had responsibilities in the region which were not being fulfilled. It was suggested that New Zealand had an obligation to share the defence task of securing the Pacific area as part of the Western strategic alliance.

2.17 The build up of economic and defence power in Asia was viewed with some concern by a New Zealand committee member. It

was recognised that New Zealand might need to protect the biomass in the sea, possibly beyond the 200 mile limit, in order to protect migratory species.

2.18 Participation in the ANZAC Frigate project was discussed from time to time in relation to perceptions of strategic interests. The following points were made about New Zealand collaboration in the project: it was acknowledged by part of the New Zealand delegation that negotiating a favourable cost was a factor in the New Zealand decision to participate; it was also acknowledged that the relationship with Australia may be the balancing factor for the New Zealand Cabinet in reaching a decision; there were fears held by some sections of the public in New Zealand that participation in the Frigate project might have military flow-ons which would not be welcome to many New Zealanders. In particular it was feared by some members of the New Zealand delegation that participation might be a backdoor way of reactivating the US alliance.

2.19 One member of the New Zealand delegation put forward the view that after 30 years of the nuclear deterrent era the post deterrent phase was at hand. This view was not widely shared by members present.

2.20 The strength of the peace movement in New Zealand was another issue which underlay much of the discussion during the joint meetings. It was claimed that the movement in New Zealand was more central to widely held public opinion than it is in Australia, where it is sometimes seen as the preserve of a minority of peace activists.

2.21 Discussion on defence and strategic issues was marked by some diversity of opinion among members present. Opposition members from the Australian Committee welcomed the fact that the National Party in New Zealand would allow nuclear ships' visits. A Government member of the Australian Committee gave it as his

opinion that a majority of people in Australia appreciated New Zealand's stance on defence issues, but this was hotly disputed.

Environment

2.22 Environmental matters were addressed during the joint meeting on 31 August 1989 under the agenda item "Current environmental issues in the region, most notably regarding Antarctica and marine resource conservation, and the growing need for environmental diplomacy." The following views were expressed during that meeting.

2.23 The Deputy Chair of the joint meeting (Chair of the New Zealand Committee) explained New Zealand's long history of concern for the environment, especially Antarctica. New Zealand had proposed a Convention to prevent mining in Antarctica which Australia had refused to sign. Speakers from all major parties in the Australian Parliament reported that their parties supported the Australian Government's refusal to sign. This refusal was not well regarded by some in New Zealand, as the process of drafting and proposing the Convention had been long and involved.

2.24 The Australian stance was based on the view that although the Convention would not make it impossible to mine in Antarctica, it would render it very difficult. Australia would prefer a World Wilderness Park which would totally protect the environment in Antarctica. In the meantime, it was suggested, Australia might consider signing the Convention as a fall-back position. Some New Zealand committee members felt that the Wilderness Park might take a very long time to set up, and the Convention could offer protection until that time. From the New Zealand viewpoint the Convention was a first step rather than as a fall-back position. It was agreed that both countries wanted the same ends for Antarctica but they disagreed on the means of achieving those ends.

2.25 New Zealand welcomed suggestions on how to take the matter of protecting Antarctica forward. New Zealand had been working towards protection since the 1940s and the New Zealand Committee hoped both countries could agree on a plan of action to further the matter. It was decided that each committee would press its respective Government to continue to work towards joint action in protecting Antarctica.

2.26 The importance of marine resources and their conservation were considered by the joint meeting. Both committees considered that conservation of marine resources was of great importance to the stability of the South Pacific region and the well-being of the countries in the region. Drift net (gill net) fishing is the main threat to the fishing countries of the region.

2.27 The following points were raised in the discussion on drift netting:

- In the past, countries like Japan have found ways to get around sanctions relating to conservation (e.g. Japan continued to take whales in the name of scientific study); this should not be accepted in the case of drift net fishing.
- Both Australia and New Zealand have a responsibility to conduct more research on migratory species and the impact of harvesting on them. Data need to be gathered outside the 200 mile limit. Neither country is doing enough to protect valuable marine resources.
- There are major populations to the north of us and these populations are dependent on harvesting food from the sea. We need to be aware that there were strategic and other issues involved in drift netting which went beyond conservation for its own sake.

- Taiwan is also involved in drift net fishing; there are only limited communication avenues available to discuss this matter with Taiwan. Australia could perhaps communicate with Taiwan via the good offices of the USA. There was concern that other nations (for example Thailand) might soon begin drift net fishing.
- Australia and New Zealand should agree on how to deal with nations which contravened drift netting agreements. The meeting recommended that the Australian and New Zealand Governments adopt a joint approach on drift netting.

Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation

2.28 The joint meeting agenda item "Future prospects for the Asia/Pacific region and the likely roles of Australia and New Zealand" afforded the opportunity for consideration of the proposal for increased Asia Pacific regional economic co-operation - a proposal sometimes called the "Hawke Initiative".

2.29 In reply to a question on what the New Zealand Government thought of the proposal, the following points were made:

- New Zealand welcomes and supports the "Hawke Initiative".
- The New Zealand Opposition also supported the proposal, seeing it as "an idea whose time has come".
- New Zealand members thought the Peoples' Republic of China should be involved, on the grounds that it was certain to be included eventually and so should be from the beginning.

2.30 This Committee is currently investigating the concept of regional economic co-operation and it was suggested that the New Zealand Committee might like to make a submission.

Disarmament and anti-nuclear policies

2.31 These issues were discussed during the joint meeting of 31 August 1989 under the agenda item "Future prospects for disarmament and anti-nuclear policies in Australia and New Zealand".

2.32 The opposition members of the New Zealand committee were concerned that the standard of debate on nuclear issues was very poor, and that global issues in general were very poorly debated. In addition, consideration of the strength of public views on such complex issues was generally based on reasonably simplistic opinion polls, which might not be reliable indicators on such difficult matters. There were misconceptions about the connection between anti-nuclear sentiments and anti-Americanism. Most New Zealand members felt that there was not a widespread anti-American sentiment in their country; on the contrary, New Zealanders felt warmly towards America.

2.33 Debate within New Zealand on disarmament and anti-nuclear issues was categorised as agreement on ends but argument over means. Opposing viewpoints could be summarised as "peace could only be maintained from a position of strength which involved staying with alliances" on the one hand, and "the nuclear free zone was a strong statement to the world for peace" on the other hand.

2.34 The observation was made by an Australian committee member that the outlook for peace had improved during the eighties. Prospects of disarmament had improved and the pessimism of the early eighties had substantially decreased. As the international political environment continued to improve, the unfortunate nexus between the US alliance and nuclear issues might decrease.

Official Development Assistance in the South Pacific

2.35 The visiting committee was briefed on Australia's position on a variety of aid issues by the Director-General and senior officers of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). This briefing ranged across policy and practical matters and was requested by the New Zealand committee which has a current inquiry into the question of overseas aid. Developments in achieving greater co-ordination on aid matters between Australia and New Zealand were outlined.

2.36 Aid issues were also discussed at the joint meeting of 31 August 1989. Discussion covered the need for committees to visit the recipient countries in order to get first hand experience of the state of aid delivery and the degree to which some projects were appropriate for particular recipient countries. The meeting also considered the matter of the absorptive capacity of small nations in relation to aid.

2.37 Some disquiet was expressed about the increasing level of Japanese aid and the difficulty of knowing what the actual aid to particular countries was. It was recognised that aid/technical assistance is a matter of influence and thus of strategic importance. Both committees agreed that there needed to be a rationalisation of aid to the South Pacific and it was necessary for Australia and New Zealand to co-operate in this rationalisation. Some consultation on aid matters is already held between Australia and New Zealand. It was felt that this should be increased.

2.38 Some of the findings of this Committee's report on AIDAB were amplified to the New Zealand Committee. Among other things, the report recommended co-ordination of aid with other donors, observing that although the level of aid was about right, recurrent costs ought to be considered during the planning stage of projects.

Immigration

2.39 Although not included as an agenda item for the joint meetings, immigration was discussed under the general business agenda item. It included a detailed (and lively) discussion on the immigration policies of both countries. During a 1988 regional visit to the South Pacific, members of this Committee's South Pacific Sub-Committee had often been asked why Australia did not have a quota system similar to that of New Zealand. New Zealand Committee members pointed out that the New Zealand entry policies were not without their problems, particularly in relation to overstaying.

2.40 Visa issue is a sensitive matter for both countries. A New Zealand government member considered New Zealand should be more sensitive to accusations of racism in relation to entry requirements. No visas are required from most white countries but they are from countries with non-European populations. It was stated that these entry requirements took into account the ability of New Zealand society to absorb new people, and the responsibility to countries of origin which were in danger of losing their young and skilled populations to emigration. An Australian member noted that we should be working towards more satisfactory arrangements for Pacific peoples to get working visas in Australia. It is difficult to devise a satisfactory immigration policy which is not discriminatory.

2.41 There was some concern that people were applying for New Zealand passports as a means of eventual entry to Australia. It was claimed that if the New Zealand authorities became aware of this, the New Zealand passport would be refused.

2.42 The greenhouse effect might become a migration issue in the future if, as a result of rising sea levels, island countries needed to resettle their population. Australia was one country which might be requested to resettle people. It was considered unlikely that Australia would ever agree to cede part of its Territory in such circumstances.

PART 3

CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The Committee was pleased with the results of the return visit of the New Zealand Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, which completed the first exchange of visits under the trial system of Committee exchanges. Members were unanimous that the visits had been a significant improvement on the previous system of exchanging randomly selected delegations.

3.2 Members of both Australian and New Zealand Committees offered suggestions for improving future visits, which should address some of the problems encountered during the current visit. The main problem concerned the inadequate time for detailed discussions between the two committees involved in the exchange. For example, a significant omission from the discussions was the issue of economic relations between the two countries. The Committee recommends that four full days be allowed for committee visits. Suggestions for making better use of the time available were also discussed. In particular, the Committee recommends that the program should include at least one non-sitting day for full and uninterrupted discussions with members of the visiting Committee, and that future meetings should include detailed discussions of Australian and New Zealand economic relations including trade, investment and finance.

3.3 Other suggestions for better organisation of the time available included:

- Holding all briefings and meetings (other than the joint meetings with the home committee) in the one location, in order to save the time taken in travelling from one destination to another. This can take a considerable time, even if most destinations are within Parliament House.

- It might be better for visitors to have an initial meeting with the home committee, then pay their formal calls on Ministers, Parliamentary dignitaries and departmental officials, and finally hold substantive discussions with the home committee on a non-sitting day.

3.4 While it is recognised that the exchange this year was the first of a proposed annual exchange of specialist Parliamentary Committees on the wide range of subject areas covered by the respective Committee systems, the Committee believes that a special case can be made for a separate system of exchange visits between the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees of the two countries. The Committee therefore recommends that the exchange of Parliamentary Committees continue and that, in addition, there should be a formal exchange between the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees of Australia and New Zealand at least once every two years, if not annually.

3.5 Australia and New Zealand have a very close relationship. There is co-operation at many levels of national life. The opportunity for the Committees to discuss matters of mutual concern can contribute greatly to the resolution of potential problems in conducting the relationship. The Committee would like to record its thanks to the Presiding Officers and to the officials of both Parliaments for facilitating this first exchange of visits.



Gordon Bilney, MP
Chairman

October 1989

APPENDIX 1

ORIGINAL PROGRAM: VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY THE
NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE
28-31 AUGUST 1989

* indicates spouses are included

MONDAY 28 AUGUST

9.10pm Arrive Canberra
9.20pm Depart airport for hotel
Evening free

TUESDAY 29 AUGUST

8.45am Depart hotel for New Zealand High Commission
9.00am Call on His Excellency,
 Mr Edward A Woodfield,
 New Zealand High Commissioner
10.20am Depart New Zealand High Commission for Parliament House
*10.30am Guided tour of Parliament House
11.15am Call on Hon Joan Child, MP
 Speaker of the
 House of Representatives
12.00noon Call on Senator
 the Hon Kerry W Sibraa,
 President of the Senate
12.30pm Attend lunch hosted by
 Mr Leo McLeay, MP,
 Deputy Speaker of the
 House of Representatives and
 Chairman of Committees:
 Private Dining Room. Attended
 also by members of the
 Joint Committee on
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
 and members of previous
 Australian Parliamentary delegations
 to New Zealand

2.00pm Attend Question Time in the
 House of Representatives

3.00pm Meeting with Members of the
 Joint Committee on
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade:
 House of Representatives
 Committee Room No 7

5.00pm Depart Parliament House for hotel

5.45pm Depart hotel for
 21 Mugga Way, Red Hill

*6.00pm Attend reception hosted by His
 Excellency Mr Edward A Woodfield,
 High Commissioner for New Zealand

7.30pm Return to hotel

WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST

8.20am Depart hotel for Parliament House

8.30am Attend meeting of the
 Joint Committee on
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
 as Observers:
 House of Representatives
 Committee Room No 7 (Meeting will be
 addressed at 9.00am by
 His Excellency Mr D L Siazen Jr,
 Director General, United Nations
 Industrial Development Organisation)

10.00am Attend meeting with officers of
 the Department of Foreign Affairs
 and Trade: House of Representatives
 Committee Room No 6

11.00am Call on the Hon M J Duffy, MP,
 Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
 and Trade

11.30am Meeting with the
 Senate Standing Committee on
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

12.30pm Attend working lunch with members of
 the Senate Standing Committee on
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade,
 hosted by the Chairman,
 Senator Maguire:
 House of Representatives
 Committee Room No 5

2.00pm Attend Question Time in the
 Senate

3.00pm Depart Parliament House for Civic

3.30pm Discussions with Officers from
 the Australian International
 Development Assistance Bureau
 (AIDAB)

5.00pm Return to hotel

5.50pm Department hotel for Parliament
 House

6.00pm Call on the Hon Kim Beazley, MP
 Minister for Defence,
 Vice President of the
 Executive Council and
 Leader of the House of
 Representatives

6.30pm Attend dinner with
 the Hon Kim Beazley, MP
 Private Dining Room

8.00pm Depart Parliament House for hotel

THURSDAY 31 AUGUST

8.50am Depart hotel for Russell Offices

9.00am Discussions with officers from
 the Department of Defence

10.30am Depart Russell Offices for hotel
11.00am Press Conference: Pavilion Hotel
*11.45am Depart hotel for tour of Canberra
and environs
2.30pm Return to hotel
2.50pm Depart hotel for Parliament House
3.00pm Hold discussions with
Joint Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
House of Representatives
Committee Room No 7
4.00pm Depart Parliament House for
Canberra Airport to catch TN50 to
Melbourne, ETD 4.50pm

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE
AUSTRALIAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DEFENCE AND TRADE
AND
THE NEW ZEALAND SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND DEFENCE

AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday 29 August 1989

TIME: 3.00pm to 5.00pm

VENUE: House of Representatives Committee Room 7,
Parliament House

It is proposed that the first 30 minutes of the meeting be open to the press and public. Before opening the meeting to the press, the Committees may wish to decide the format for the public segment of the Joint Meeting.

BUSINESS

1. The procedures to be adopted by the joint meeting (procedures used by the first joint meeting of the Committees, in April 1989 in New Zealand are attached).
2. Defence options and the prospective strategic environment facing Australia and New Zealand.
3. Current environmental issues in the region, most notably regarding Antarctica and marine resource conservation, and the growing need for environmental diplomacy.
4. Future prospects for the Asia/Pacific region and the likely roles of Australia and New Zealand.
5. Future prospects for disarmament and anti-nuclear policies in Australia and New Zealand.
6. Official Development Assistance in the South Pacific.
7. General business.

THIRD JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE
AUSTRALIAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DEFENCE AND TRADE
AND
THE NEW ZEALAND SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND DEFENCE

AGENDA

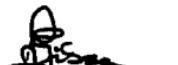
Date: Thursday 31 August 1989

Time: 8.15am to 9.50am

Venue: House of Representatives Committee Room 7,
Parliament House.

BUSINESS

1. Current environmental issues in the region, most notably regarding Antarctica and marine resource conservation, and the growing need for environmental diplomacy.
2. Future prospects for the Asia/Pacific region and the likely roles of Australia and New Zealand.
3. Future prospects for disarmament and anti-nuclear policies in Australia and New Zealand.
4. Official Development Assistance in the South Pacific.
5. General business.



Peter Gibson
Secretary

PROCEDURES FOR THE JOINT MEETINGS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ZEALAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA
AUGUST 1989

- 1 The meetings will be conducted in the same manner and under the same procedures and rules as meetings conducted by the host committee.
- 2 The Chairman of the host committee will be the chairman of the meetings, with the visiting chairman being accorded the status of deputy chairman.
- 3 The meetings will not hear evidence or seek submissions.
- 4 The meetings will be able to deliberate, vote, and pass resolutions, which each committee would be expected to report back to its Parliament. The Chairman will have a deliberative vote only.
- 5 The opening formalities of the first meeting will be open to the public after which the meetings will be held in private, subject to the right of any other member of either Parliament to attend the meetings without participating in it.
- 6 Given that no evidence is to be taken, a verbatim transcript of the meetings will not be made. A record of the meetings will be made by the staff of each committee and, when this has been agreed to by each committee, will be reported to each Parliament.
- 7 Both the chairman and the deputy chairman of the meetings may make public statements in advance of the report back to the Parliaments with a view to informing the public of the nature of the meetings' proceedings.



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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APPENDIX 4

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

PRESS RELEASE

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND DISCUSS SENSITIVE
BILATERAL ISSUES

Today representatives of the Australian and New Zealand Parliaments concluded three days of frank but constructive discussions on often sensitive bilateral issues.

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and the (New Zealand) Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence discussed:

- . the defence relationship between Australia and New Zealand, including wider relationships in the South Pacific and the Pacific rim;
- . current environmental issues in the region, most notably regarding Antarctica and marine resource conservation, and the growing need for environmental diplomacy;
- . future prospects for the Asia/Pacific region and the likely roles of Australia and New Zealand;
- . disarmament perspectives and anti-nuclear policies in Australia and New Zealand;
- . official development assistance in the South Pacific; and
- . immigration.

Ms Sonja Davies, MP, Deputy Chair of the Joint Meeting and Chair of the New Zealand Committee said: "Our discussions brought much better understanding of our respective positions and opened new areas for further co-operation between our countries. I am especially pleased with the progress made on environmental and aid issues and I will provide a comprehensive report to the New Zealand Parliament."

Mr Gordon Bilney, MP, Chairman of the meeting and of the Australian Committee, said that the discussions were the first in Australia between the Australian and New Zealand Parliamentary Committees, and were intended to set the stage for future discussions between other Parliamentary Committees dealing with different subjects.

He said: "Discussion between Parliamentary Committees is a logical development given the close co-operation between Australia and New Zealand at other levels. They clearly improve understanding between our nations and contribute to the resolution of often difficult and sensitive problems."

CANBERRA

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