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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 10:29 PM
To: White Paper
Subject: 2017 DFAT Whitepaper submission

Dear DFAT,

Please consider the following response to the six issues under consideration the 2017 DFAT Whitepaper:

1...AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS TO BE GROUNDED IN A CLEAR-EYED ASSESSMENT OF OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.

Our national interests should be grounded in our values. We need to return to multiculturalism and return to being a nation of tolerance and advocate for human rights for everyone. Most countries of the world once respected Australia for these values. Unlike what Malcolm Turnbull suggested this week, the prime minister of Israel does not share these values with us.

Neither are our values, those of Donald Trump, as the USA tries to decide who they will attack next.

2. AUSTRALIA HAS DIVERSE INTERESTS THAT SPAN THE GLOBE.

The government- and media-generated (particularly the media micromanaged by the non-Australian, Rupert Murdoch) Islamophobia should stop. We have been racist in our engagement with governments of predominantly Moslem populations, like Afganistan, Iraq and Syria, and particularly those on our door-step like Indonesia and Malaysia. Rupert Murdoch's media empire does not span the globe. The world is beyond Murdoch.

3. AUSTRALIA IS AN INFLUENTIAL PLAYER IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

Over 70% of the world's nations recognise Palestine, but not our government. We thus condemn Palestinians to non-citizen status and to the lowest caste level of a system of apartheid, with the daily abuses of Israeli martial law, or, rather, unlawfulness. Australia should recognise Palestine now.

Our Foreign Minister's declaration that Australia would not agree with the UN Security Council Resolution 2334, is disgraceful. Would Australia tolerate Indonesia establishing Moslem-only colonies in northern Australia by means of military force. No country would. That is, except Australia. Julie Bishop thinks it fine for Palestinian land to be stolen, but it is "one-sided" to rebuke Israel for this. [REDACTED] I think the rest of the world will think it is one or the other. The pretence of a peace initiative has gone on all my life, while Israel engages in ethnic cleansing pure and simple.

Our credibility as an advocate of human rights would immediately rise with our Indonesia and Malaysia and the majority of the nations of the world if we recognised the nationhood of Palestine now and demanded a fair and just resolution of this region. The government would also get the support of the Australian people (except for Rupert).

I was one of millions around the world who strongly protested against our insane government's participation in the Iraq War. The Australian Government has trashed our reputation as a leading advocate in human rights, by attacking Iraq, killing millions of people, destroying its infrastructure and institutions and soiling us with the cowardice and disgrace of engaging in, or countenancing, torture, including of our own citizens, like David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib. These two deserve an apology and compensation.

Despite a desperate attempt to generate lies and other propaganda in the media for war, the Australian Government could not get the support of most of the people of Australia, indeed, it went against the wishes of the Australian people. No going to war by executive decision making!

Australia should also advocate for secular states, with a clear separation of religion from state power. There should be no Christian states, or Jewish states, or Islamic states. Religion should be personal.

4. AUSTRALIA NEEDS TO BE AMBITIOUS IN GRASPING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

Australia was a world leader in solar energy technology in the 1970s. My mother worked for the Professor Bill Charters in Melbourne, who was president of the International Solar Energy Society. Needless to say, Australia is one of the few countries running in the wrong direction for economic opportunities in the renewable energy market. Indeed, Australia is now an international pariah as far as our emissions of CO2. Fukushima has been a disaster with regard to nuclear power, its PR and its investment, so forget this power source.

Make the commitment now, to renewables, like wind and solar energy, to be used to the maximum, instead of building new polluting coal-fired power plants.

AUSTRALIA CONFRONTS A RANGE OF STRATEGIC, SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES.

Having followed the US into the quagmire of Iraq and Syria, Australia should withdraw from the US Pivot against our economic partner, China. The leadership of the USA is desperately seeking an enemy. Will it be Russia or China or Iran? The US spending on war is obscene and now, Donald Trump has announced a further obscene increase. Do you think Trump will be working towards Australia's national interest? Of course not! Do not engage in further wars which have little to do with Australia.

AUSTRALIA USES A RANGE OF ASSETS AND CAPABILITIES TO PURSUE OUR INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS.

Use our multicultural people to engage with China, Iran and Russia economically, diplomatically and socially. Many people in the USA are terrified, not of terrorists, or Russians or Chinese or Iranians. They are terrified of their President. Support them, not Trump.

Kind regards
Mark Bradbeer

