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Committee Secretariat
Joint Committee on Treaties

Nuclear Non-proliferation and
Disarmament

Inquiry into Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament
Explanation re Submission

I prepared submission for email to you, but ran into difficulties with computer. (You may have received blank email from "Mary") Still cannot send emails. Below is submission that I hope you will accept. (I have no car and am 75 years old)
(This submission is much abbreviated from earlier one prepared) I obtained (email) extension until 15/2/09

Submission

Inquiry into Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament

We appeal to the Joint Committee on Treaties to recommend the cancellation of all of Australia's uranium export treaties or secondarily to recommend major changes to these treaties because of "disgraceful limitations of "safeguards," conflicts of interest among treaty organizations and consequently the extremely high risk of Australia's uranium exports contributing to nuclear weapons proliferation.

Below are some reasons for our request.

1. Uranium is the only energy source for nuclear weapons.
2. Al Gore voted in 2006 "For eight years in the

White House, every weapons proliferation problem we dealt with was connected to a civilian reactor program" and that if nuclear was to replace coal, we would have a huge proliferation problem.

3. The Director General of IAEA has repeatedly made blunt statements about the limitations of IAEA in regard to inspections so that the system suffers from

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"vulnerabilities" and that it is underfunded.

4. One of most challenging problems for IAEA inspectors (who are insufficient) is "material unaccounted for" (MUF). Discrepancies in accounting are frequent and no doubt lead to undetected nuclear weapons.
5. In a ~~big~~ large plant, even a small amount of the annual usage of nuclear will be enough to build one or more weapons with ~~it~~ virtually no chance of detection by IAEA inspections, that is if any inspections take place at all.
6. Australia's uranium has resulted in production of over 114 tonnes of plutonium, enough for over 11,000 nuclear weapons.
7. Australia's uranium exports are shrouded in secrecy.
8. Australia retains right to prohibit reprocessing of AOMM but has not once invoked that right even when reprocessing leads to stockpiling of separated, weapons-usable plutonium as it has in Japan and some European countries.
9. Australia exports uranium to countries with unacceptable proliferation/disarmament records, eg USA, UK, China, France, South Korea & Taiwan.
10. Australia does not require that all nuclear facilities processing AOMM be subject to IAEA inspections.
11. The uranium industry in Australia employs less than 0.1% of people. Renewable energies would employ many people if promoted.
12. Uranium industry contributes little to economy while polluting mining areas, eg tailings dump at Roxby Downs.
13. Renewable energies are the way to ^{go} including those with base power loads.
14. Phase out nuclear power and uranium mining if we want cleaner, safer world.