



Submission 51
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Queensland
Government

Premier of Queensland

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- 7 MAR 2007

Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVED
21 MAR 2007

BY: *[Signature]*

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2006 concerning the tabling of the following treaty in both houses of Parliament:

- *Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation (Mataram, Lombok, 13 November 2006).*

The Queensland Government has reviewed this treaty and has identified an issue of concern in relation to Article 2 (3). The article states that the Parties shall not support activities which threaten the stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the other Party. It specifically mentions separatism. Australia and Indonesia have very different domestic laws dealing with protests, peaceful demonstrations and political freedom of speech. It would be beneficial for the Agreement to clarify if an activity must be unlawful in the country where it is occurring for it to come under this section. For example, fundraisers and rallies for West Papuan refugees held in Australia may be construed under the agreement as supporting a separatist movement.

I also note that in the National Interest Analysis (NIA), Paragraph 8 mentions outbreaks of disease as a non-traditional security threat and a reason for Australia to take the proposed treaty action (and Paragraph 6 specifically mentions avian influenza). However, there is no direct mention of disease outbreak in any of the articles in the Agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this treaty.

Yours sincerely

PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE

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