

24 Werruna Avenue,
OCEAN SHORES 2483
18.6.'02

17/02

The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/s,

In the forthcoming program of public hearings on Australian activities at the United Nations (UN), may I urge you to keep in mind the record of the UN to date which is, to say the least, not impressive.

Australia must retain its own sovereignty, not surrender it to the dictates of a central authority such as the UN. No more treaties must be signed without reference to the people of Australia. Currently, we are in my opinion overextended in our peace-keeping activities, leaving our own country virtually defenceless. Some UN peace-keeping operations have in the past produced more problems than they have solved, and the thinking of some members of the UN needs to be critically examined. Is it because of our commitment to the UN that our trading position in the world at present is so precarious? Is it because of organisations such as the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank that we are being forced too rapidly into globalisation, and now are threatened with the GATS which will render us even more vulnerable to exploitation? We must exercise caution in our dealings with the UN organisation, as its intentions are not clearly enough defined, and its past history indicates that in its dealings the wishes and aims of the Australian people are not a consideration.

Yours faithfully

EDNA M. LIPPOLD (Mrs.)