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NSW 2262  
4390-3135  
27 Mar 02

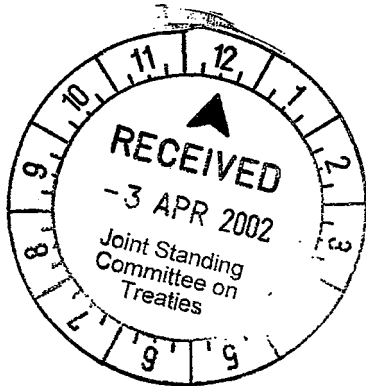
Treaties tabled on  
12 March 2002  
Submission No. ....

Sir

As an American-Australian, it goes without saying that I've a vested interest in any agreement with the US on social security. As a person on a permanent disability pension, due to MS, said interest is even more so.

Be that as it may, the interest is compounded by the fact of American social security being quite different from Australian. For openers, although American governments say and act otherwise, American social security is an independent trust fund quite separate from all other government affairs and should not even be included in any budgetary figures. For possible closure, one of the understated issues of the last American election was a mooted privatisation of social security, ostensibly so the money could be invested in the 'boom' economy.

I have no doubt about that issue being reborn and, therefore, suggest that any international agreement with the Corporate State of America - said reality being one of the reasons why I emigrated - should be handled carefully and knowledgeably.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E D Webber". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

E D Webber