



Treaties Committee to review the Australia-United States North-West Cape Naval Communication Station Agreement

This Monday, Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties will examine an agreement between Australia and the United States on the Harold E. Holt Naval Communication Station near Exmouth on the North-West Cape in Western Australia.

The Harold E Holt Naval Communication Station was commissioned in 1967 and became a joint facility in 1974. The Station provides Very Low Frequency communications for United States and Australian submarines. Since 1999, Australia has operated the Station, but the United States has retained full access. The Station's capacity for communicating with submerged submarines throughout and beyond our area of strategic interest is unique in our region. The facility is also an important element in the support of Australian submarine activities.

The proposed Agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the maintenance and operation of the Station by Australia, and grants the US access to and use of the Station.

"This agreement will continue an already existing and successful relationship with our most important strategic ally, the United States. The continued cooperative agreement with the US for the Harold E. Holt Naval Communication Station will help support the maintenance of a strong and adaptable US presence in the Asia-Pacific region. It is also an important indication of the continuing commitment of the US Government to regional cooperation." Committee Acting Chair, Senator Simon Birmingham, said. "This Agreement provides that the Station is managed in accordance with Australia's policy of full knowledge and concurrence."

Public Hearing: Monday 19 September 2011, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra — All welcome

10.30 am **Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America Relating to the Operation of and Access to an Australian Naval Communication Station at North West Cape in Western Australia, done at Washington DC on 16 July 2008**

Department of Defence

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Copies of the *National Interest Analysis* and treaty text are available under Treaties tabled on 16 August 2011 at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm>

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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