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From: John A. Rayner [SMTP:raynerja@primus.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2000 9:28 AM
To: jsct@aph.gov.au
Subject: Australia and the WTO

7,Rae Place

Hillarys

Western Australia

22nd August 2000

Dear Secretary,

I refer to the Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the WTO.

I am very concerned that Australia not continue to enter into negotiations with the WTO tied to the dogmas peddled by so called "Economic Experts" who will not put the interests of Australia ahead of any other considerations.

Our "Big Player" economies - the US, the EU and Japan all put internal political considerations first whilst we continue to play the game by the "Rules". Why are our negotiators so blind to the tactics which our competitors use to their advantage and our disadvantage? The latest outpouring from the US Secretary of the Treasury saying that the US stands for "Free and fair trade...The US has a right to protect its workers". Free trade is to be free only if it is FAIR.

We are small players in this sphere and we need to keep as many options open as we can, to combat the actions of those who do not think twice about us if the entry of our goods into their economies causes their workers to protest about being undercut by our prices. The wider, social impact of trade needs to be given a much greater priority by our negotiators.

Yours sincerely

John A.Rayner