

Submission 3
China uranium

Hans Paas J.P.

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BY: *[Signature]*

5th September, 2006.

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,
PO Box 6021,
Parliament House,
Canberra. 2600.

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Export of uranium to China.

I write in opposition to the export of uranium to China on three main grounds.

1. Until a way is found for the processing and disposal of radioactive waste, it is only possible to store waste. In the long-term this poses unacceptable safety risks, and I believe that the only responsible course mankind can take with regard to this issue is to refrain from using uranium until or unless a method of waste disposal is found.
2. Regardless of whether China refrains from using uranium sourced in Australia for nuclear weapons, simply by increasing their importation of uranium they are able to use other uranium obtained from other sources for nuclear weapons. Any commitment to refrain from using uranium sourced from Australia becomes ineffective and at best symbolic.
3. China's human rights record is such that the Commonwealth of Australia should refrain from entering into any relationship with them that may involve issues of world security. I believe the committee should develop protocols which could be adopted by Parliament that set out minimum standards which have to be met by China before any exports of uranium. Such protocols should also be used as the basis for any other 'security' relationship between our two nations; eg. weapons, exchanges of intelligence etc.

The committee is I am sure aware of the grave risks posed to the survival of life on this planet posed by the mis-use of nuclear technology and our relationship with China should be guided by that understanding.

yours faithfully,


Hans Paas J.P.