



amnesty international australia

25 August 2000

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Department of House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

BY FAX AND POST: 026277 4827

Re: Inquiry into Australia's relationship with the World Trade Organisation

Dear Secretary,

We refer to the proposed Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' inquiry into the nature and scope of Australia's relationship with the World Trade Organisation.

This submission by Amnesty International has been compiled by the Amnesty International Business Group (AIBG), which is made up of representatives from the Australian corporate community and is dedicated to constructive dialogue with business and government on human rights issues. A key element of this collaboration is contributing to debates on human rights issues as they pertain to trade. We have previously contributed to submissions on issues such as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and have contributed to Amnesty International submissions to Parliament regarding Australia's relationship with the UN.

We see this inquiry as an opportunity to discuss an international trading regime that takes full account of the need for the protection and enhancement of human rights as an integral part of trade and development. We look forward to discussing this submission with you. If the Committee has any queries, it might refer these to Des Hogan, Campaign Coordinator of Amnesty International, on 02 9217 7630.

Thank you for your attention in this.

Yours sincerely

Rory Sullivan
AIA Business Group

Yours sincerely

Paul Evans
AIA Business Group

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