



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PETITIONS

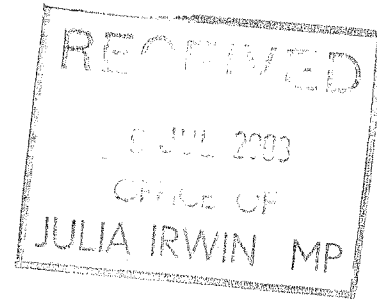
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THE HON STEPHEN SMITH MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- 7 JUL 2008

Mrs Julia Irwin MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Julia

Dear Mrs Irwin

Thank you for your letter dated 27 May 2008 about the petition submitted to the Committee regarding pension entitlements from Latvia.

Australian and Latvian officials are negotiating a proposed bilateral Social Security Agreement that will coordinate the two countries' social security schemes. Negotiation of such agreements is the responsibility of the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to whom I understand you have also written. In view of this, I ask that you refer to the written response being provided by the Hon Ms Macklin.

Thank you for bringing the petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Smith