

mervyn murchie

From: "mervyn murchie" <mmurchie@vtown.com.au>
To: <jsct@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2004 3:19 PM
Subject: US-Australia Free Trade Agreement

RECEIVED
13 APR 2004

BY:.....

Secretary,
Joint Stranding Committee on Treaties,
R1-109,Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to protest against the proposed US- Australia Free Trade agreement which has been foisted on Australia by a super power which is treating Australia like a colonial outpost.

In particular I voice my opposition to the following examples of the sell-out of the Australian negotiating team to US economic interests-

- 1) The Australian Government has to compensate US companies in the event Australia's environmental and public health laws "significantly interfere" with their investments. This is a major threat to Australia's sovereignty.
- 2) Australia is required to ensuring its laws (including its environmental and public health laws) do not act as a barrier to trade in services. If these laws are deemed to be " more burdensome than necessary to ensure the quality of the service" Australia can be dragged off to court by the US government which could seek a ruling that these laws be overturned.
- 3) Australia gave a major concession to the US in relation to trade in manufactured goods. As a result of the FTA, 99% of US manufactured goods can now enter Australia duty free. This will have serious negative effects on employment in Australia and also on the environment by encouraging the import of US petrol guzzling cars which will impede our program to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.
- 4)This Agreement consolidates the US inspired trend away from global multilateral agreements in the areas of trade and the environment. In their place many countries are being offered bi-lateral agreements with the US and in many cases pressured into accepting them to avoid severe economic and political penalties.

It is time the Australian government showed some leadership in protecting the national interest rather than surrendering to the imperialist demands of the US

power brokers.

Yours sincerely,

Mervyn Murchie



40 EUROKA ST.,
NORTH SYDNEY,
2060