

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEFENCE AND
TRADE

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
3 MAY 2000

QUESTION(S) TAKEN ON NOTICE

(Hansard page 130)

Output 1.1 and 1.2

Senator Hogg

- (a) At the recent NPT Review Conference on 25 April the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer, launched an ANZAC Day Six-Point Plan to promote progress in nuclear arms control and disarmament. Which other countries spoke in support of this plan or indicated their support for this initiative during the NPT Review Conference?

Response:

- (a) The six objectives emphasised by Mr Downer in his statement to the NPT Review Conference on 25 April were
- immediate entry into force and the full implementation of START II , and the early commencement and completion of the negotiations on START III
 - the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
 - immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and, pending its conclusion, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons
 - universal adherence to the IAEA additional protocol and early establishment of an integrated safeguards regime to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of the safeguards system

- implementation of effective export controls to enhance the long term assurance and stability which underpins nuclear trade and cooperation
- universal adherence to the NPT regime.

A wide range of participants has indicated support for various elements of the plan, including Japan, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries of the EU, Russia, New Zealand and other members of the New Agenda Coalition, and members of the South Pacific Group. Australia's proposals are influencing the development of common ground at the Conference.

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEFENCE AND
TRADE

ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING 3 May 2000

QUESTION(S) TAKEN ON NOTICE

(Hansard page 110-11)

Output 1.1 & 1.2

Senator Murphy

(a) **WTO Law**

In reply to my letter to DFAT of 24 March I was advised that there are no obligations on WTO member states to provide draft import risk analysis to other members. It is of concern therefore that Australia's draft risk analysis information appears to be freely available to other WTO members as a result of our transparent consultative processes. What draft risk analysis information from other WTO member states is provided or available to Australia?

Response:

(a) The transparency provisions of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (Annex B, paragraphs 5-8) require WTO Members to provide early notifications of proposed SPS measures which are not based on international standards (except where urgent problems arise). Such early notifications are to be accompanied by an indication of the objective and rationale of the proposed measures at a stage when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account. Measures introduced in response to urgent problems are an exception to this requirement.

WTO Members are obliged to provide copies of the proposed measures on request and to provide an opportunity to discuss any comments received, and to take such comments and the results of discussions into account. Developed WTO Members are also required to provide copies of documents on request.

While the practice of preparing draft risk assessments varies among WTO Members, there is often detailed documentation supporting the proposed measures which is either volunteered or made available on request. Australia for instance has been given the opportunity to comment

on EU draft proposals relating to the risk associated with BSE ('mad cow' disease) and on the risks associated with the use of hormonal growth promotants in cattle. Australia has also been given an opportunity to comment on New Zealand import risk analyses on salmonids before finalisation of policies. In notifications to the WTO, the US and others have adopted the practice of citing relevant documentation and sources and, in some cases, hold open public hearings. Examples of such notifications in the public WTO document series include G/SPS/N/USA/88, G/SPS/N/EEC/15, G/SPS/N/NZL/18