

1) Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence + Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT
Australia 2600

Dear Sir + Madames

With regard to the FTA, defence and political relations with China I believe we need to be extremely astute and must clinically analyse the realities of the present situation, possible future situations and the long term trade ~~welfare~~ welfare, ~~political~~ political possibilities and the change in the balance of world power eg U.S.A, India, China Europe + Russia.

China is a rising power, it is becoming quickly economically powerful with its huge low cost skilled workforce and its underlying ~~technology~~ technology. that should not be ~~under~~ underestimated. It is also a growing military power that along with India will soon enough challenge the U.S.A. for world power and this will + must have a dramatic impact on our part of the world + ourselves.

> It is not in our interest to make our own country economically vulnerable so that we are merely the supplier of raw materials. There are no even playing fields in trade & commerce. Why should we reward low cost labour production any further when the income and the working conditions are not acceptable and further the environmental conditions maintained are not at least as good as if not better than ours.

Already China plays with currency valuations in trade in order to enrich herself in foreign currencies.

Why should we seek FTA that like the one with the USA are completely false. When is the free trade in primary production. One off trade agreements such as the one with the USA undermine our position. What we should be putting our energy into is World Trade Agreements and an end to the perfidious subsidisation of primary production in the USA and continental Europe. These undermine the economic health of the third world countries and massively work to the disadvantage of countries like Australia. And to add insult to injury the USA

3) + Trade Forces Europe compete in primary
production international ~~market~~ market
by selling primary production below cost.
Our time and money would be
better spent on progressing & developing
our own economic base with research, technological
progress, more effective stand alone defence
& ever more sophisticated and effective
international relations.

In defence we need to prepare for
military conflict between ~~China~~ China &
the USA & perhaps India. If we reduce
our dependence on the USA we can and
must be able to be more free to
pursue a more balanced international
political position.

In trade we should certainly
exploit opportunities with the rest of the
world but not through one off trade
agreements and we should do more to
engage countries like India.

When is Australia now, where do we
~~now~~ want to be in the future, how are we
going to get there.

Yours Faithfully
Richard Oprea