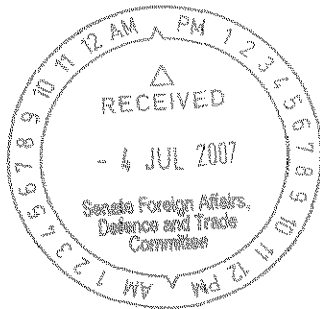




**ROBERT DAVIS MCCALLUM, JR.**

*Ambassador of the United States of America*



June 29, 2007

The Honorable Senator Marise Payne  
Chair, Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and  
Trade Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Payne:

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee's inquiry and report on Australian peacekeeping operations. The United States appreciates and applauds Australia's commitment to global peacekeeping. This commitment has provided for the peace and stability in fragile nations throughout the world, including East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

One area of particularly pressing need is the upcoming UN/African Union peacekeeping operation in Darfur. Given the urgent crisis in Darfur, we have asked Australia to consider what aid it might be able provide, in addition to its generous contribution of 15 military observers.

The United States looks forward to continued close cooperation with the Government of Australia on the development of peacekeeping capacities. These cooperative efforts include Australian Defence Force and U.S. Pacific Command "Peacekeeping Operations Capacity Building Assessment Teams". Australia and the United States can also continue to work together by identifying opportunities for the ADF to expand participation in the attainment of Global Peace Operations Initiative objectives in the Asia-Pacific region

Thank you for your consideration of these matters and for your continued support of the alliance.

Sincerely,

Robert D. McCallum, Jr.  
Ambassador