

Sent: Friday, 19 March 2004 8:16 PM
To: FTA, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Sub8

I sent the following to Mark Vaile this week. It is short, but I hope you will take account of its sentiments.

17 March 2004

to: the Hon Mark Vaile, Minister for Trade and Member for Lyne, Austrade

Thank you for your email relating to the USFTA. We are still opposed to the bilateral agreement. We believe that Australia should be dedicating its efforts to freeing up international trade through multi-lateral agreements and eg, through vehicles such as the (now presumably defunct) Cairns group.

I hope the next Australian government will tear up the agreement, which focuses on boosting the already excessive wealth and consumption of Australia and the US and condemns even more third world citizens to perpetual poverty. In this lies the seed of eventual destruction of the currently dominant world order.

If Australia and America would agree to increase their (genuine) support to the developing world by say 50% of the expected economic gains to be derived from the FTA, it might be more acceptable to me and others. I imagine this might involve at least a tripling of Australia's development assistance budget to perhaps \$5 billion annually."

Regards
Jon Cook