

November 8  
Anti- terrorism legislation

The Australian Prime Minister John Howard is not bothering much with discussions about permissible periods of detention under the proposed new anti terrorism legislation yet that matter may be what counts most.

In Britain the Prime Minister Tony Blair remains personally convinced that allowing police to detain suspects for up to 90 days without trial is essential to combating the threat from al-Qaeda.

The British Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) aren't chasing the right to "Shoot to Kill" which has been the most contentious issue in Australia, As if? Surely killing people who might know about planed terrorist acts would be the most stupid thing to do.

The unanimous view of Acpo is that up to 90 days could be necessary to ensure the thorough examination necessary to establish a case against possible terrorists.

"(Acpo) are adamant that without the new powers - on which MPs now vote this Wednesday - suicide bombers could go free, the dispute matters to every citizen in Britain" (The Observer Nov 6).

Al Qaeda are a huge networked hotch - potch organization including wannabe suicide bombers, sleepers numbered in tens of thousands and disparate others who hate the same people Osama bin Laden hates.

Plans like the September 11 attacks were not cocked up by a couple of like - minded spirits in a few meetings. Questioning people involved in preparations would have needed to be intense and time consuming if that horrific plan could have been halted.

Time is always of the essence.

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