

Timor Sea Treaty
Submission No:69.....

Fri, 6 Sep 2002 10:34 PM

From: System Administrator <postmaster@aph.gov.au>
To: <aubsteven@bigpond.com>
Date: Friday, 6 September 2002 3:28 PM
Subject: Undeliverable: Timor Gap Treaty

16 SEP 2002

Your message

To: The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Subject: Timor Gap Treaty
Sent: Fri, 6 Sep 2002 15:30:32 +1000

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From: Steven Aubrey <aubsteven@bigpond.com>
Date: Fri, 6 Sep 2002 15:30:32 +1000
To: The Hon Julie Bishop MP <Julie.Bishop@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Timor Gap Treaty

The Hon Julie Bishop

I am writing in relation to the Timor Gap Treaty.

As East Timor is a new nation with little economic strength, I ask you to give East Timor a fair deal while negotiating the Treaty, and not seek to exploit its relative weakness to the maximum. Australia is well endowed with natural resources and has enough wealth to enable it to deal fairly with East Timor.

An economically viable East Timor is in Australia's interest, and that of the region. The resources of the East Timor Sea need to be available to East Timor for use in forwarding its economic development, and meeting its people's basic needs in health and education. The natural resources of oil and natural gas represent East Timor's greatest hope for self-reliance and stability.

Any ratification of a Treaty which will not provide the best possible outcome for East Timor could well lead to a negative perception of Australia by the East Timorese people. The people of East Timor deserve the opportunity to delimit their sovereign boundaries and secure their physical place in the world. Australia has assisted the East Timorese to gain their independence as a new nation, now this needs to be taken to the logical next step by ratification of a fair treaty which gives the East Timorese a chance towards their goal of economic self-reliance.

Australia's withdrawal from the dispute settlement mechanisms of the ICJ and UNCLOS seems to be an over-reaction that severely limits East Timor's options in seeking an objective, third party resolution of the maritime boundary dispute. I urge you to immediately reinstate adherence to these dispute settlement mechanisms.

Australia should recognise its international legal obligation to engage with

East Timor in good faith, and help it towards establishment of permanent maritime boundaries within a time frame not exceeding 5 years.

I urge you to ensure that ratification of the Timor Sea Treaty is accompanied by the following commitments:

the centrality of the "without prejudice" clause

acknowledgement that the Treaty arrangements are provisional only

declaration that the Treaty does not inhibit the extent of East Timor's maritime claims

confirmation that we will prioritise "training & employment opportunities for East Timorese nationals" as in Article 11 of the Treaty

Production sharing Contracts will include provisions prioritising East Timorese interests

Steven Aubrey
58 Athleen Ave
Lenah Valley
Tas 7008

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Aubrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.