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ACTION EAP-01

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 C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: CLARKE N ELLIS
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 18 DEC 2019
 DATE/CASE ID: 14 APR 2011 200908577

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E.O.. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PREL, PARM, ETRD, KPRP, XB, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE U.S.

REF: A. CANBERRA 6020; B. CANBERRA 7044; C. CANBERRA 1348; D. 93 CANBERRA 8296; E. 93 CANBERRA 8697; F. CANBERRA 6801 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY

1. (C) AUSTRALIA'S NEW DEFENSE WHITE PAPER PEERS 15 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE AND SEES NO SPECIFIC THREATS, THOUGH CHINA BEARS WATCHING, AS DO INCREASES IN OTHER ASIAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES. THE U.S. IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN THE PREDOMINANT POWER AND TO STAY ENGAGED IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC, BUT IT "WILL NEITHER SEEK NOR ACCEPT" PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING REGIONAL PEACE. THE GOA INTENDS TO CONTINUE PURSUIT OF DEFENSE "SELF-RELIANCE;" TO SEEK STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS -- PARTICULARLY WITH INDONESIA; TO MAINTAIN ALLIANCE BONDS WITH THE U.S.; AND TO PROVIDE CONTINGENTS FOR PEACEKEEPING OPS. SOME COMMENTATORS PERCEIVE THAT THE PAPER TILTS TOWARD ASIA AND AWAY FROM THE U.S.



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2. (C) [REDACTED] LANGUAGE IN THE PAPER STATES AUSTRALIA'S CONTINUING ACCEPTANCE OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CANBER 07113 01 OF 08 182331Z UMBRELLA UNTIL A TOTAL BAN ON NUKES IS ACHIEVED. THE PAPER SEES BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE RESEARCH AS AN AREA FOR POTENTIAL COOPERATION, AND EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS. ONE SECTION PRODS NEW ZEALAND TO SUSTAIN AND DEVELOP ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, REGRETS THE USG-GNZ DISPUTE ARISING FROM GNZ SHIP-VISIT POLICY, AND URGES THE KIWIS TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL EXERCISES. IN DEALING WITH

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FORCE STRUCTURE, THE PAPER IN EFFECT ADMITS THAT THE ADF WILL CONTINUE TO FUND MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AT THE EXPENSE OF CURRENT READINESS. THE GOA WILL INITIATE A 5-YEAR DEFENSE BUDGET COMMITMENT IN 1996-97. ACTUAL BUDGETS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN AROUND 2 PERCENT OF GDP.

3. (C) THE CHAPTER ON DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL POLICY CONTINUES A "BUY AUSTRALIA" THEME, SO LONG AS THERE IS "GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY." COLLABORATION WITH "TRADITIONAL PARTNERS" LIKE THE U.S. IS TO CONTINUE, BUT THERE IS LANGUAGE ABOUT BROADENING AND DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF HIGH-TECH AND SUPPORT. THE PAPER SAYS HIGHER PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL NATIONS LIKE INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. THE GOA WILL PURSUE DEFENSE EXPORTS, WITHIN LIMITS. THE PAPER'S SKETCH OF COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDES AN EMPHASIS ON SENSORS, PRECISION WEAPONS, AND A VARIETY OF NEW AND UPGRADED PLATFORMS. WE JUDGE THE WHITE PAPER A REALISTIC PRODUCT WHICH KEEPS IMPORTANT U.S. ROLES PROMINENT. WE INTEND TO MONITOR COMMERCIAL ASPECTS CAREFULLY, TO SPOT OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS AND ENCOURAGE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. THIS CABLE FULFILLS A POST REPORTING PLAN REQUIREMENT. END SUMMARY.

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4. (U) DEFMIN ROBERT RAY PRESENTED AUSTRALIA'S LATEST DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- 167 PAGES TITLED: "DEFENDING AUSTRALIA" -- TO PARLIAMENT ON DEC. 1. PREVIOUS WHITE PAPERS WERE TABLED IN 1976 AND 1987. THE PAPER PEERS 15 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE -- TO 2010 -- TO PREDICT SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THE MEANS TO MEET THEM. THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (ADOD) DRAFTED THE PAPER. THE DEPARTMENTS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT), PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET (PM&C), FINANCE, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT.

A BRIEF SUMMARY

5. (U) WITH THE COLD WAR OVER, THE GOA SEES NO SPECIFIC THREATS, THOUGH CHINA LOOMS AS A PROSPECTIVE ASIA-PACIFIC SUPERPOWER WITH INTERESTS WHICH MUST BE

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ACKNOWLEDGED. JAPAN WOULD RAISE CONCERNS ONLY IF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY ALLIANCE WERE TO DISINTEGRATE -- AN UNLIKELY PROSPECT. ABSENT THREATS, THE GOA LOOKS FOR POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND NOTES THAT ECONOMICALLY ADVANCING ASIAN NATIONS ARE UPPING THEIR EXPENDITURES ON INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENTS. THE GOA EXPECTS THE U.S. TO REMAIN THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PREL, PARM, ETRD, KPRP, XB, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- WHAT IT
MEANS FOR THE U.S.

PREDOMINANT POWER IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC AND TO STAY
FORWARD-DEPLOYED. HOWEVER, THE PAPER PREDICTS, THE
RELATIVE MILITARY STRENGTH OF ASIAN POWERS WILL GROW
AND THE U.S. WILL "NEITHER SEEK NOR ACCEPT" PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING REGIONAL PEACE AND
STABILITY.

6. (U) IN THAT SECURITY ENVIRONMENT, THE GOA INTENDS A
MULTI-TRACK COURSE:

-- TO CONTINUE PURSUING DEFENSE SELF-RELIANCE, DEFINED
AS THE ABILITY TO PROTECT THE AUSTRALIAN LANDMASS
WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER NATIONS' COMBAT TROOPS.
THIS REQUIRES PURCHASING HIGH-TECH ARMAMENTS --
PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT, SHIPS, AND SUBMARINES -- TO
DEFEND THE AIR-SEA GAP AND TO STRIKE BACK STRATEGICALLY,
IF NECESSARY. DEFENSE BUDGETS FOR EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL,
AND TRAINING ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN NEAR 2 PERCENT OF
GDP, THOUGH AS 2010 APPROACHES, THERE WILL BE A NEED
FOR REAL GROWTH TO FUND A HOST OF NEXT-GENERATION

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EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENTS. BEGINNING IN 1996-97, THE GOA WILL PROVIDE A 5-YEAR BUDGET COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE DEFENSE PLANNING.

-- TO PURSUE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH ASIAN NATIONS,
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ESPECIALLY WITH INDONESIA AND FIVE-POWER DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENT (FPDA) ALLIES MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, BUT
ALSO FARTHER AFIELD, INCLUDING EXPANDED CONTACTS WITH
CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA, INDIA, AND, IN TIME, PERHAPS WITH
TAIWAN ON DEFENSE AND SECURITY ISSUES. DEFENSE
COOPERATION WITH "STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT" COUNTRIES OF
THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC WILL CONTINUE. THE DEFENSE
RELATIONSHIP WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA WILL SEE MILITARY
AID "REDUCING IN SCALE" BUT REMAINING "SUBSTANTIAL."
EXPECTING THAT ASIAN NATIONS WILL INCREASINGLY SET
THEIR OWN SECURITY AGENDAS, THE GOA WANTS TO BE IN A
POSITION TO WORK WITH THEM, RATHER THAN AGAINST THEM,
TO SET AND ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS. A MEANS TO DO THIS IS
THROUGH MECHANISMS LIKE THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM.

-- TO MAINTAIN "IMPORTANT" ALLIANCE BONDS WITH THE U.S.
AND OTHERS. THE PAPER STRESSES THAT THE U.S. HELPS
ACHIEVE AUSTRALIA'S SELF-RELIANCE BY DETERRING
POTENTIAL AGGRESSORS AND PROVIDING IMPORTANT HIGH-TECH
EQUIPMENT, EXERCISES, EXCHANGES, "ESSENTIAL" INTEL ETC.
THE GOA WOULD "EXPECT SUBSTANTIAL AND INVALUABLE HELP
IN A CRISIS," THOUGH NOT COMBAT TROOPS. A MAJOR GOA
GOAL IS TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED U.S. ENGAGEMENT IN THE
ASIA-PACIFIC. THE PAPER SIGNALS THAT THE GOA WILL
FACILITATE, WHEN IT CAN, U.S. ACTIVITIES AND DEPLOYMENTS
IN THE REGION; CONTINUE COOPERATION IN JOINT DEFENSE
FACILITIES; AND COOPERATE TO MEET COMMON DANGERS IN THE
PACIFIC AREA. THE GOA ANTICIPATES WORKING WITH THE U.S.
IN MULTILATERAL FORA ON COMMON REGIONAL-SECURITY GOALS.

-- TO PROVIDE CONTINGENTS FOR MULTILATERAL PEACEKEEPING
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OPS. THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE FORCE (ADF) WILL REMAIN
STRUCTURED TO DEFEND AUSTRALIA; BUT, AS IN THE PAST,
THAT STRUCTURE IS EXPECTED TO FOSTER USEFUL
CONTRIBUTIONS TO A VARIETY OF U.N. AND OTHER PKOS. THE
GOA WILL NOT SET A NUMERICAL CEILING ON TROOP
CONTRIBUTIONS BUT WILL WANT OPS TO BE CAREFULLY PLANNED
AND EXECUTED. (NOTE: PREVIOUSLY, DEFMIN RAY AND ADOD
HAD PROPOSED A 200-PERSON LIMIT FOR ADF TROOP
CONTRIBUTIONS TO PKOS (EXCLUDING CAMBODIA AND SOMALIA.)

U.S. AND ASIA -- CAN AUSTRALIA BOTH WALK AND CHEW GUM?

7. (C) SOME NEWSPAPER COMMENTATORS HAVE ARGUED THAT
THE WHITE PAPER TILTS GOA DEFENSE POLICY TOO FAR TOWARD
ASIA, NEGLECTING THE CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTION THE U.S.
ALLIANCE MAKES TO AUSTRALIA'S AND THE REGION'S SECURITY.
THOSE COMMENTATORS NOTE THE WHITE-PAPER LANGUAGE ABOUT
ASIANS INCREASINGLY DETERMINING SECURITY POLICY FOR
THEMSELVES AND ABOUT THE U.S. NEITHER SEEKING NOR
ACCEPTING PRIMACY, AND THEY POINT OUT THAT CHAPTER 8 ON
REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT IS PLACED AHEAD OF CHAPTER 9 ON
ALLIANCES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

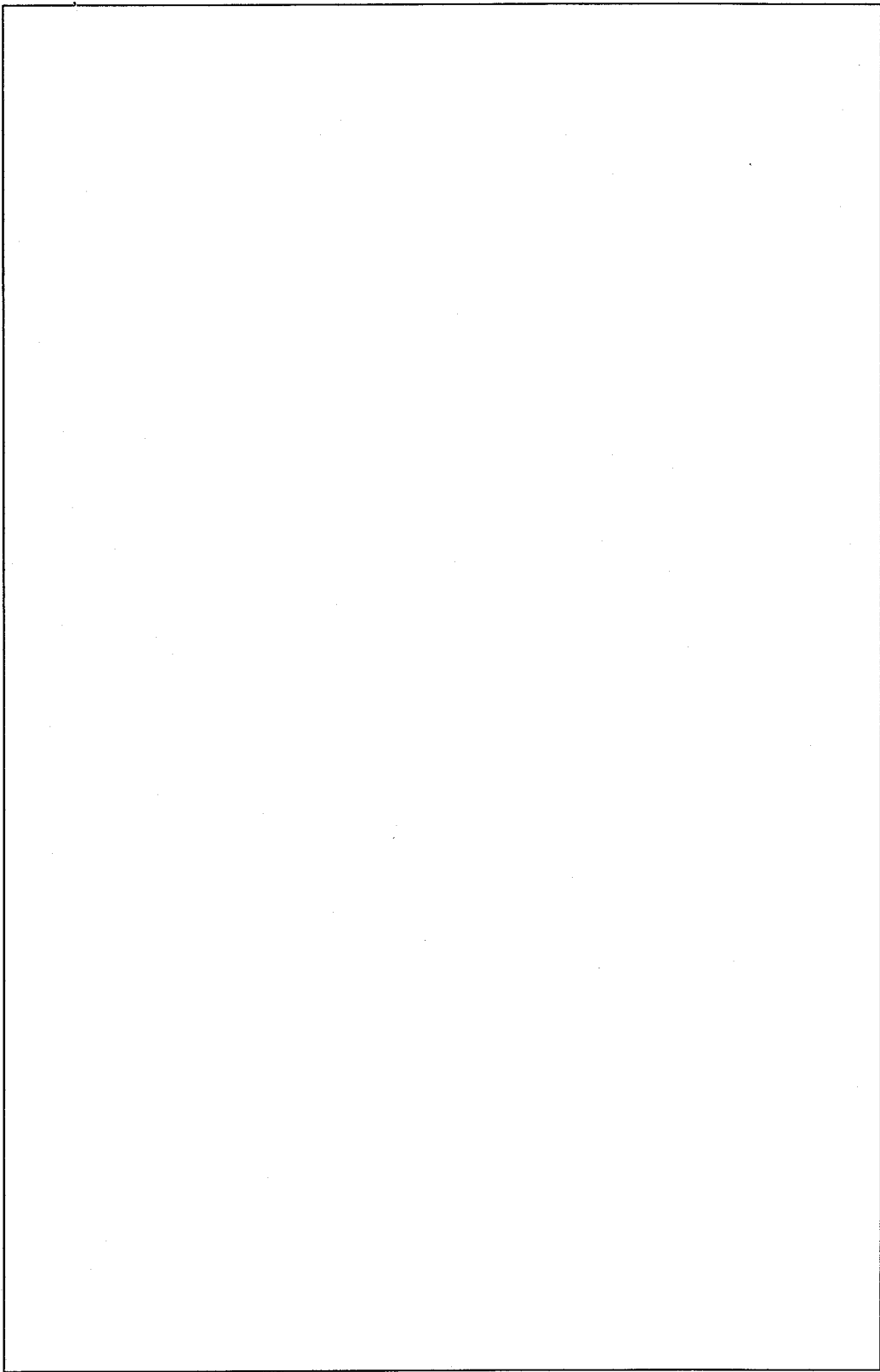
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TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PREL, PARM, ETRD, KPRP, XB, AS

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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- WHAT IT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

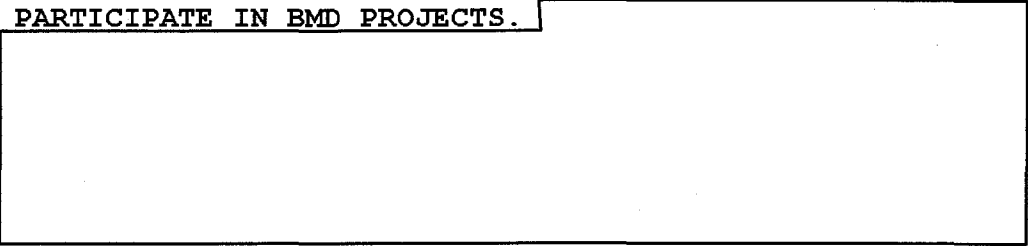
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 MEANS FOR THE U.S.



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BALLISTIC-MISSILE DEFENSE

13. (C) IN CHAPTER 12 DEALING WITH SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, THE WHITE PAPER STATES AT PARA 33:
"FINALLY, ANOTHER AREA WITH POTENTIAL FOR INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY WITH THE UNITED
STATES, CONCERNS DEFENSE AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILES.
SUCH WORK WOULD REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF
OPPOSING THE PROLIFERATION OF SUCH WEAPONS." THIS
LANGUAGE, FORESHADOWED IN THE MARCH 1994 AUSTRALIA-U.S.
MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE (REF C), CODIFIES A DECISION
THAT, WITH THE DEMISE OF "STAR WARS," GOA OFFICIALS MAY
PARTICIPATE IN BMD PROJECTS.



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14. (U) THE WHITE PAPER EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, NOTING THAT WMD HAVE NOT YET ENTERED SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGIONAL INVENTORIES. AUSTRALIA WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE U.S. TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS IN THE VARIETY OF CONTROL REGIMES. THE PAPER ACKNOWLEDGES A "MODEST PROGRAM OF RESEARCH" INTO DEFENSE AGAINST NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IT SAYS WORK WILL CONTINUE ON METHODS TO COUNTER LANDMINES THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO DETECT. PART OF THE MOTIVATION FOR BOTH THOSE ACTIVITIES PROTECTION OF AUSSIE TROOPS INVOLVED IN PKOS.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

15. (U) THE CHANCES OF TERRORIST ACTS IN AUSTRALIA ARE CHARACTERIZED AS LOWER THAN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, THOUGH NEVER TO BE RULED OUT. "HIGH PROFILE VISITORS AND EVENTS SUCH AS THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN 2000 WILL REQUIRE HEIGHTENED STATES OF ALERT."

LINKS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA -- SUSCEPTIBLE TO EROSION?

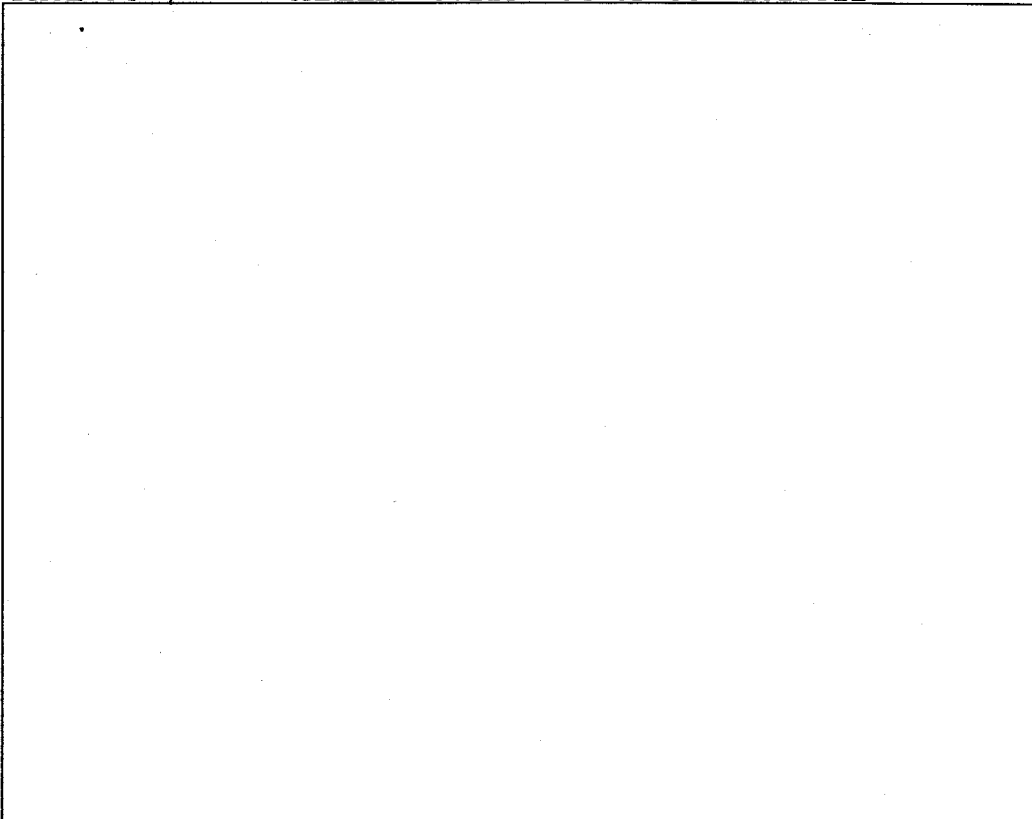
16. (C) SOME NEWSPAPER COMMENTATORS HAVE QUESTIONED THE PAPER'S PROPOSAL THAT THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA IS THE GOA'S "MOST IMPORTANT IN THE REGION," ARGUING THAT TIES TO INDONESIA ARE NEW AND RELATIVELY UNTESTED, WHEREAS TIES TO MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE ARE SOLIDLY BASED ON THE FPDA AMONG AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE U.K., MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE.

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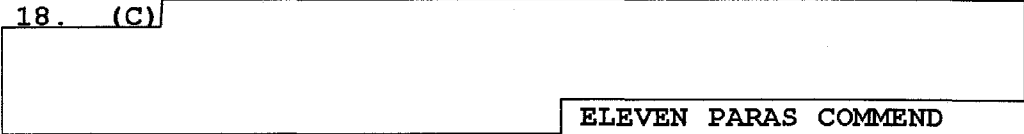
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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- WHAT IT
MEANS FOR THE U.S.



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18. (C)



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ELEVEN PARAS COMMEND

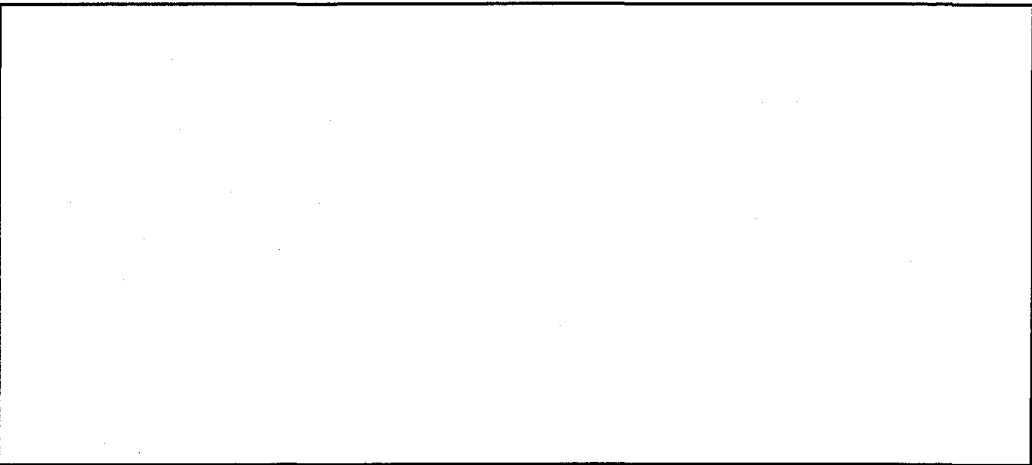
SHARED INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, NOTE THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION THE NZDF COULD OFFER AUSTRALIA IN A CONFLICT, AND URGE A CONTINUED GNZ COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING MODERN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. THE PAPER LOOKS FORWARD TO A SUSTAINED, AND IF POSSIBLE, ENHANCED GNZ ROLE IN REGIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING KIWI PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISES INVOLVING REGIONAL COUNTRIES.

19. (U) A PARAGRAPH ON THE USG-GNZ NUCLEAR ISSUE READS AS FOLLOWS: "WE CONTINUE TO REGRET THE DISPUTE ARISING FROM NEW ZEALAND POLICY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NEW ZEALAND OVER SHIP VISITS. WE BELIEVE IT IS AN ISSUE FOR THE TWO NATIONS THEMSELVES. THE DISPUTE HAS NOT PREVENTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR DEFENSE RELATIONS WITH EITHER PARTY, BUT VALUABLE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH NEW ZEALAND WOULD ARISE FROM

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PROGRESS ON THE ISSUE."



21. (C) 

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 THREE PARAGRAPHS  DISCUSS VALUED

HISTORIC TIES AND DEFENSE-INDUSTRY LINKS WITH THE U.K., CANADA, AND A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE, SWEDEN, GERMANY, AND ITALY.

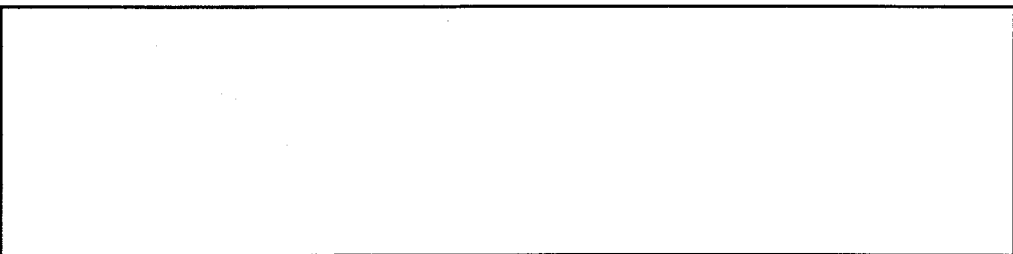
FORCE STRUCTURE ISSUES

22. (U) COMMENTATORS HAVE CRITICIZED THE WHITE PAPER FOR CONTINUING PREVIOUS PLANS TO PURCHASE EXPENSIVE, HIGH-TECH GEAR DESPITE PROOF THAT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES
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ARE FALLING AS A SHARE OF GDP. THOSE COMMENTATORS ARGUE THAT THE RESULT IS A "HOLLOW FORCE" OF STRIPPED-DOWN SHIPS, SUBMARINES, AND AIRCRAFT WHICH LACK SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL.

23. (U) IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH CRITICS, THE WHITE PAPER ARGUES THAT THE ADF DOES NOT NEED TO MAINTAIN THE "ACTUAL FORCE STRUCTURE" TO CONFRONT A MAJOR ATTACK ON SHORT NOTICE, SINCE "SHORT-WARNING CONFLICTS" WOULD MOST LIKELY BE "LOWER LEVEL RAIDS AND OTHER HARASSING ACTIONS" WHICH COULD BE REPULSED AND, IN ANY CASE, WOULD NOT THREATEN NATIONAL SURVIVAL. THE PAPER ARGUES THAT "READINESS IS EXPENSIVE... ((AND)) MUST THEREFORE BE HELD CAREFULLY AT THE LEVEL APPROPRIATE TO OUR STRATEGIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES."



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INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA/J5//
AIT TAIPEI 0493
SECDEF WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY SUVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PREL, PARM, ETRD, KPRP, XB, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- WHAT IT
MEANS FOR THE U.S.



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25. (U) ON OTHER FORCE-STRUCTURE ISSUES, THE PAPER:

-- ANNOUNCES THAT EXISTING JOINT HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE WILL BE COLLOCATED BY THE YEAR 2000, BUT LEAVES UNSETTLED WHETHER THE ADF WILL APPOINT A COMMANDER JOINT FORCES AUSTRALIA. (LTG JOHN SANDERSON IS "DESIGNATED" IN THAT POSITION AT PRESENT.)

-- ANNOUNCES PLANS TO FORM A 5TH REGULAR INFANTRY BATTALION FROM AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND REITERATES THE PLAN TO RELOCATE SEVERAL LAND-FORCE UNITS FROM THE HEAVILY POPULATED SOUTHEAST TO THE NORTH, THE AREA OF AUSTRALIA MOST LIKELY BE THREATENED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. LOCATION IN THE NORTH WILL NECESSITATE BETTER TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES, WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL IMPACT IN HOST COMMUNITIES, AND WILL INCREASE PERSONNEL COSTS AND INVOLVE "MARKED PERSONAL DISADVANTAGES" WHICH WILL REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION.

-- THE PAPER REPORTS REDUCTIONS OF ABOUT 15 PERCENT IN BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL SINCE 1991, INCLUDING A 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN CIVILIAN SENIOR-

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EXECUTIVE LEVEL NUMBERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE
PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN THE ADF IS STEADILY GROWING AND
IS NOW ABOUT 12 PERCENT.

S&T COOPERATION

26. (U) THE PAPER DESCRIBES HOW AUSTRALIA BENEFITS
FROM DEFENSE-SCIENCE COOPERATION WITH NORTH AMERICA AND
EUROPE. IT NOTES THAT "PARTNERS ARE INCREASINGLY
FOCUSSING ON CONFLICT AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL RATHER THAN
THE GLOBAL LEVEL. THEIR PRIORITIES AND THOSE OF
AUSTRALIA ARE THUS CONVERGING." AUSTRALIA WILL
CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE, AND AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH IS THE
WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ON BMD RESEARCH (SEE PARA 13).

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL POLICY -- BUY AUSTRALIA

27. (U) THE CHAPTER DEVOTED TO DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL
POLICY IS CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER POLICY DOCUMENTS,
SUCH AS THE NOVEMBER 1992 "PRICE REPORT." THE WHITE
PAPER EMPHASIZES THE CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT
THE GOA HAS BEEN FOSTERING BETWEEN DEFENSE AND
AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY, INCLUDING: DESIGNATING AUSTRALIAN
INDUSTRY AS THE "FOURTH ARM" OF DEFENSE; AWARDING
CONTRACTS TO AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES AS PRIMES, SO LONG AS
THERE IS "GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY"; ACQUIRING FOREIGN
TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE AUSTRALIA'S INDUSTRIAL BASE;
PAYING ONLY FOR THOSE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
ACTUALLY NEEDED; COMMITTING TO REDUCED TENDERING COSTS
FOR SUPPLIERS; COMMERCIALIZING NON-CORE DEFENSE
ACTIVITIES; AND REMOVING THE LONG-HELD STIGMA ATTACHED

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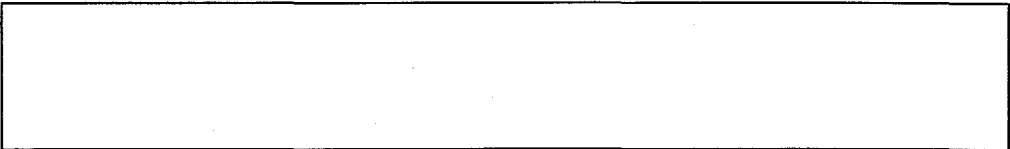
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TO EXPORTING DEFENSE GOODS AND SERVICES.

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ALSO COOPERATE WITH EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

28. (LOU) THE PAPER ANTICIPATES THAT COLLABORATION WITH "TRADITIONAL PARTNERS" LIKE THE UNITED STATES IS WELL-ESTABLISHED AND WILL CONTINUE. THAT SAID, THE SECTION ON LINKS TO EUROPE SPECIFIES A WISH "TO BROADEN AND DIVERSIFY...SOURCES OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT," AND ADDS THAT THE FOCUS IN DEVELOPING GOA LINKS WITH MOST COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE REGION WILL BE IN "LOGISTIC SUPPORT, DEFENSE SCIENCE, AND MATERIEL COLLABORATION." IN DISCUSSING TIES WITHIN THE REGION, THE PAPER RELATES THAT THE GOA IS GIVING HIGHER PRIORITY TO SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY COOPERATION AND "COOPERATIVE EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION" AND NOTES, IN PARTICULAR, AN INTENT TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP AND PRODUCE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT JOINTLY WITH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA.



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MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09
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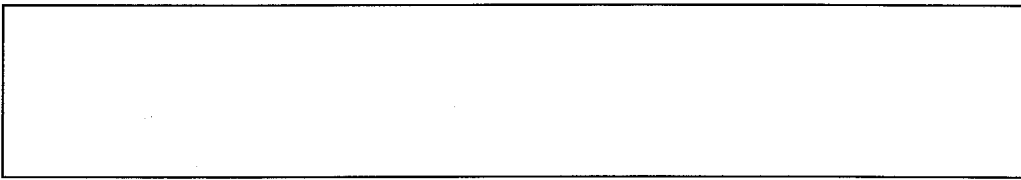
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 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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 AMEMBASSY SUVA
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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 SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER -- WHAT IT
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30. (U) THE PAPER EMPHASIZES STRICT EXPORT CONTROLS, NOTING THAT THE GOA "DOES NOT PERMIT EXPORT OF DEFENSE GOODS TO ANY COUNTRY UNDER A MANDATORY U.N. ARMS EMBARGO, TO COUNTRIES WHOSE POLICIES ARE HOSTILE TO OUR OWN, OR TO COUNTRIES WHICH SERIOUSLY VIOLATE THEIR CITIZENS' HUMAN RIGHTS (UNLESS THERE IS NO REASONABLE RISK THAT THE ITEMS CONCERNED WILL BE USED AGAINST THOSE CITIZENS). EXPORT PROPOSALS ARE NOT APPROVED WHERE THEY MAY DISADVANTAGE AUSTRALIA MILITARILY OR MORE GENERALLY WHERE FOREIGN AND STRATEGIC POLICY INTERESTS OUTWEIGH EXPORT BENEFITS."

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

31. (U) WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED IN THE WHITE PAPER HAVE BEEN FORESHADOWED BY OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE WHITE PAPER CONSOLIDATES

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DISPARATE ELEMENTS INTO ONE DOCUMENT. THE KEY WORD FOR U.S. COMPANIES LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES IS "SENSORS" FOR DETECTION, DEFINITION, TARGET ACQUISITION AND TRACKING, ELECTRONIC SELF-PROTECTION, AND SURVEILLANCE. THERE WILL BE AN INCREASING INTEREST IN PRECISION WEAPONS AND THEIR GUIDANCE TECHNOLOGIES, UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES FOR SURVEILLANCE, SATELLITES, PRECISION MISSILES, AND -- A LONG-HELD DREAM -- AN AWACS-TYPE AIRCRAFT.

32. (U) THE PAPER NOTES PLANS TO ACQUIRE MINE-WARFARE VESSELS, A NEW CLASS OF PATROL VESSELS (PERHAPS IN COLLABORATION WITH MALAYSIA), HELICOPTERS FOR MAJOR SURFACE COMBATANTS, A NEW AIR FORCE TRAINER AIRCRAFT, MOBILE GROUND AIR DEFENSE RADARS, NEW LIGHT RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES, LIGHTLY ARMORED TRANSPORT VEHICLES, TRUCKS, MORE NIGHT-VISION DEVICES, GPS NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, AND NEW C130 AIRCRAFT. OTHER SYSTEMS FOR WHICH PLANS ARE LESS DEFINITE INCLUDE SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED MISSILES, ADDITIONAL UTILITY

HELICOPTERS, AND A REPLACEMENT FOR CARIBOU TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

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33. (U) UPGRADES OF EXISTING EQUIPMENT WILL ASSUME AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ACQUISITION PROGRAM. POSSIBLE UPGRADES INCLUDE: F/A-18S -- SENSORS, ECM, WEAPONS SYSTEMS, RADAR; SHIP MISSILES (SEA SPARROW/STANDARD); FFGS -- TO EXTEND OPERATIONAL LIFE AND IMPROVE SURVIVABILITY; NAVY SEA KING HELICOPTERS -- TO EXTEND USEFUL LIFE; HEAVY LANDING SHIPS -- TO PROVIDE FOR TRAINING, AFLOAT MEDICAL SUPPORT, AND HELICOPTER

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OPS; AND M113 TRACKED ARMORED VEHICLES -- TO EXTEND USEFUL LIFE.

TANKS AND SUBS

34. (LOU) THE PAPER REJECTS A PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE SURPLUS GERMAN LEOPARD TANKS AS NOT COST EFFECTIVE. LEFT OPEN IS THE POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING CURRENT LEOPARDS WITH SMALLER TANKS SUITED TO AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT AND FITTED WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART COMBAT SYSTEMS. THE PAPER ANNOUNCES THAT SIX NEW COLLINS-CLASS SUBMARINES WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET CURRENT AND FORESEEABLE NEEDS, BUT PROPOSES A REVIEW AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST DEFENSE FIVE-YEAR BUDGET IN 1996-97. (COMMENT: PM KEATING AND FORMER DEFMIN BEAZLEY HAVE ADVOCATED THE PURCHASE OF TWO MORE COLLINS CLASS SUBS, AND DEFMIN RAY HAS ENDORSED THAT, SO LONG AS DEFENSE FUNDING PERMITS. THE WHITE PAPER PLAYS HARBALL BY APPEARING TO REJECT ANY SUCH PLAN ABSENT PROOF OF A GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FULL FUNDING.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 08 CANBERRA 007113

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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35. (C) OVERALL, WE BELIEVE "DEFENDING AUSTRALIA"
PAINTS A REALISTIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE NEXT 15
YEARS. IT LAYS OUT A CREDIBLE ROADMAP FOR THE GOA TO
FOLLOW IN SECURING NATIONAL DEFENSE AND PROMOTING
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INTERESTS. INCREASED ATTENTION TO
ASIA IS COMPLEMENTED BY CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S. ALLIANCE. THE PAPER'S SECTIONS
REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR U.S. NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AND FOR
OUR JOINT FACILITIES, EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO
FACILITATE U.S. ACTIVITIES AND DEPLOYMENTS IN THE
REGION, AND OFFERING TO COOPERATE ON BMD ARE WELCOME.

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