

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)



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On the day of a visit to Perth (WA) by US Secretary of State Clinton and the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network or IPAN is sounding alarm bells that Australian sovereignty is being threatened.

Spokesperson for IPAN Professor Richard Tanter is concerned that the AUSMIN talks between Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Secretary of State Clinton will consolidate agreements regarding the use of Australian territory for US foreign policy behind the backs of Australians.

Professor Tanter asks “will the procurement of nuclear submarines be on the agenda – what about the use of Cocos Islands as a drone base and just how many troops can we expect to see stationed in Darwin?”

“At a time when our relationship with China is closer than it has ever been, why is the Australian government cooperating in United States planning for the military containment of China? There is no threat to Australia – other than that created by ill-considered and dangerous reversion to Cold War attitudes.”

Professor Tanter shares the concern of IPAN that an arms race in our region is beginning, with a consequent increase in the likelihood of Australia again being involved in warfare.

“With no threat from any foreign power, it is not clear why an apparent, urgent build-up of US military might is taking place on Australian soil. Australia has a track record of fighting wars on the behalf of the superpower of the day, with disastrous results from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. The lessons of the past are ringing clear; we need to have an independent and peaceful approach to our place in the Asia Pacific region”, said Professor Tanter.

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), has member organisations and representatives in every state. Member groups are united in calling for a more independent foreign policy for Australia.