



## **PRESS RELEASE: B1 Bomber Misspeak**

### **Peace group condemns any future plans for US bombers to be based in Australia**

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) is appalled by the retracted announcement that US B1 bombers are bound for Australia.

“We’ve had an insight into the planning of the USA,” stated Nick Deane, a spokesperson for IPAN.

“They’ve let the cat out of the bag about future plans for US bases in Australia. It’s time there was a discussion about the benefits of the US alliance in the face of possible conflict with China, Australia’s largest trading partner.”

“Former Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser spoke of the dangers of such an alliance in his book *Dangerous Allies*, and we should heed that warning,” Deane said.

“Fraser predicted that the US would make decisions without consulting the Australian government and last night we saw that he might be right,” said former Senator Jo Vallentine, from Western Australia and IPAN spokesperson.

“This could have been a dangerous development. With the decision to base the nuclear capable B1 bomber in Darwin, China may see no distinction between Australian foreign policy and US foreign policy. Are the Australian people ready to cede that sovereignty to the USA? This so called misspeak should be seen as a warning to Australia on what this alliance might cost us in the future,” she said.

“The people of Darwin and the Northern Territory would need to be consulted before nuclear capable planes were based here,” said Justin Tutty, IPAN’s spokesperson from Darwin.

“We need to discuss now, not in when the B1’s might come in the future, what the costs might be in getting in the middle of a conflict between China and the USA.”

IPAN is a network of organisations from all regions of Australia who are united by our support for an independent Australian foreign policy based on peaceful resolution of conflicts.

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