

# Marrickville Peace Group

E: [marrickvillepeacegroup@gmail.com](mailto:marrickvillepeacegroup@gmail.com) W: [www.marrickvillepeacegroup.org](http://www.marrickvillepeacegroup.org)

---

Senator the Hon Marise Payne  
Minister for Defence  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra

Dear Minister

I write to you again to express Marrickville Peace Group's extreme concern about developments in the ongoing matter of the military build-up in our region.

From MPG's perspective it is now absolutely clear that the US intends to protect its interests in SE Asia, through military means if necessary. The latest incident, that confirms this perspective, is the news of talks between the US and Australian governments about the possibility of regularly rotating USAF aircraft through northern Australia. <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/united-states-talking-to-turnbull-government-about-stepping-up-presence-of-b1-bomber-war-planes-in-australia-20160308-gndt8r.html>

In the expectation that the pattern set in the past will be followed again, we anticipate Australia agreeing to this proposal.

On May 26, 2015 MPG wrote to your predecessor, Mr Kevin Andrews, inviting him to contradict the proposition that the US had plans to base military assets on Australian territory on a permanent basis. We never heard that proposition contradicted. Today's news re-affirms what MPG was pointing out nine months ago.

Not only are there talks to decide on the stationing of B1 bombers in Australia, the nation is also being urged to join the USA in of sending warships and warplanes to disputed areas of the South China Sea. If Australia joins in this action, it will be seen for what it is – highly provocative.

Meanwhile we have just seen a big-spending Defence White Paper released.

Taken together, all these matters point to one conclusion:- that the United States is preparing for a military confrontation with China, and that Australia is assisting the US in these preparations.

Can you, please, assure us that this is not the case?

Sincerely

Nick Deane (for Marrickville Peace Group)

17 Riverside Crescent  
Marrickville NSW 2204

March 10, 2016