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It is deeply concerning to hear recent reports that the US and Australian governments are in talks to step up the presence of US long-range strike bombers in Australia.

The possibility of these aircraft carrying nuclear weapons, which the US will neither confirm nor deny, makes it even more scary.

We can ill-afford a confrontation with China, which is a major trading partner and is threatening us in no way at all.

By providing a launching pad in the Northern Territory for what looks increasingly like a US attack on China, we are making ourselves a target for any retaliation. This surely is something no one would want.

President Barak Obama highlighted our subservience to US foreign policy during a visit in 2011 when announcing the stationing of 2,000 troops in Darwin. Alongside the smiling acquiescent PM Julia Gillard he said: "You can't tell where our end and you guys begin ..."

It seems nothing much has changed since then.

It was May last year when we first heard from a US official during a Congressional appearance that the Pentagon would be "placing additional air force assets in Australia" including "B-1 bombers and surveillance aircraft". Then followed a retraction from the US Government that the official had "misspoke". Evidently it was always "on the table".

We seem to have a very ambiguous relationship with China: Are they friend or foe? On the one hand we allow the Chinese to purchase vast amounts of farming land, real estate and ports and on the other we are taking sides in what clearly is a Chinese and US conflict over maritime claims in the South China Sea. By doing this we are sending out a signal to China that we are not a friend.

Our future trajectory is unclear and at the very least the issue of accepting US weaponry, bases and military exercises on our soil deserves closer examination and proper Parliamentary debate.

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