

Email to: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

From: Colin Hesse

Date: 31st October 2022

Dear Anthony and team,

I write regarding today's news that the Government of the United States of America is, according to the ABC news website, "preparing to deploy up to six nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to northern Australia." (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-31/china-tensions-taiwan-us-military-deploy-bombers-to-australia/101585380>)

I write to register my serious objection to this proposal, one that I believe can only inflame regional tensions in the Asia-Pacific, and which will likely see an ongoing expansion of militarisation among our neighbours.

As I have written before, I am concerned that the alliance between the Australian and United States Governments is not one that promotes peace in our region. I ask you and your Government to refuse this suggestion by the United States Government of locating bombers on Australian soil, and to instead promote a peaceful and demilitarized region, one where military spending declines across all nations in our area.

Your Government has importantly increased aid and development support to our Pacific neighbours, undoing a terrible direction in policy begun under the Government of Tony Abbott. I strongly support improving the quality of life of all in our region through peaceful means.

I also recognise and strongly support the action your government has taken, and I quote from International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) "in a vote at the United Nations, Australia dropped its opposition to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, bringing an end to five years of hostility to this crucial agreement. "

Sincerely, I hope that your Government will become a party to the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

To do so of course our nation should follow the lead of the New Zealand Government, and no longer allow the visit, much less the hosting, of nuclear weapons capable military items such as ships or aeroplanes.

I very much believe that moving the Australian nation to be a leading voice in the cause of peace and non-violence will make our nation both safer and more prosperous. I look forward to your advice on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Hesse