

Nuclear Nightmares/Australia and the Nuclear Renaissance

2 x Radio Documentaries

Broadcast: *Background Briefing* ABC Radio National , 22 May 2005, 3

September 2006

Producer/Writer: Tom Morton

1. Research Background

The journalist brings extensive investigative research to bear on key issues of nuclear policy and diplomacy with significant implications for Australia, e.g. the crisis of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), Iran and North Korea's nuclear programs, and debates about whether Australia should develop a uranium enrichment capability. Both documentaries ask the research question: has the framework of nuclear safeguards and controls embodied in the NPT become obsolete as a result of changing geo-political and strategic factors? What does this mean for Australia's nuclear policy?

2. Research Contribution

Drawing on a wide range of original interviews with diplomats, former and serving officials and nuclear policy experts, as well as extensive research these documentaries develop a critique of the 'global nuclear renaissance' and the political, diplomatic and economic interests behind the push for an expansion of nuclear power and uranium enrichment.

3. Research Significance

As a result of material broadcast in *Australia and the Nuclear Renaissance*, the then Foreign Minister Alexander Downer was forced to publicly clarify Australian nuclear policy towards Indonesia:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/National/Downer-reassures-Indonesia-on-uranium/2006/09/04/1157222035521.html>

The documentary is cited in: *Richard Tanter, "Rethinking Extended Nuclear Deterrence in the Defence of Australia," The Asia-Pacific Journal, 50-3-09, December 14, 2009.*

RadioNational Background Briefing

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NUCLEAR NIGHTMARES

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Broadcast: Sunday 22 May 2005 9:00AM

Is the world headed for a new nuclear arms race?

For nearly 40 years, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has stopped nuclear weapons from spreading to more and more countries - or proliferating, in the arms control jargon.

But the treaty is close to breaking point.

Many experts believe we're not that far away from a world in which Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia - and a host of other countries - decide it's time to get nuclear weapons.

And there's an emerging consensus between left and right, between Washington hawks and the peace movement, that the distinction between peaceful and military uses of nuclear energy is an illusion.

We take you to the conference in New York where our nuclear future is being shaped.

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Music

- Track** Basho (Drunken Monk)
Artist Endophonic
Album Sound Quality Volume 2
- Track** Hiding it Away
Artist Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
Album Abbatoir Blues/The Lyre of Orpheus

 **Sunday 8am, as part of Sunday Extra**
Repeated: Monday 4am
Presented by **Jonathan Green**

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