# 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.

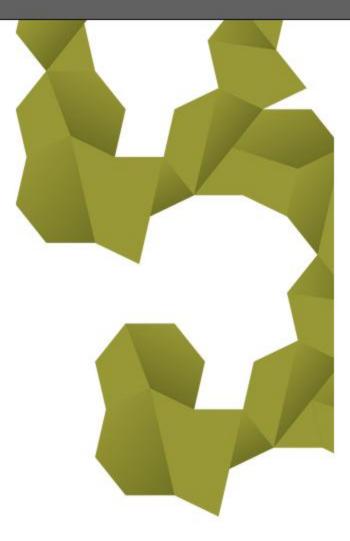
# 3. Research Significance

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-onuranium/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**

For nearly 40 years, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has stopped nuclear weapons from spreading to more and more

Many experts believe we're not that far away from a world in which Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia - and a host

And there's an emerging consensus between left and right, between Washington hawks and the peace movement, that

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NUCLEAR NIGHTMARES

Broadcast: Sunday 22 May 2005 9:00AM

But the treaty is close to breaking point.

Is the world headed for a new nuclear arms race?

countries - or proliferating, in the arms control jargon.

of other countries - decide it's time to get nuclear weapons.

# Sunday 8am, as Extra

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the distinction between peaceful and military uses of nuclear energy is an illusion.

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- part of Sunday Repeated: Monday 4am
- Presented by Jonathan Green

- 12:00PM AEDT
- With Eleanor Hall. The latest reports and analysis of the day's breaking

