

JOHN R. PEAKE

4/1A Lillis Street
Camberay NSW 2062
Australia
Ph: (02)9957 6813
0414 412 577

The Chairman,
National Security Committee of Cabinet.
The Hon. J. Howard
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

peake 15/11/06.

Thursday, 9th November 2006

Dear Mr Howard,

Re Air Combat Capability Plan

1. At a meeting on 22nd September last, with the Defence Minister Dr Brendan Nelson's Aeronautical Advisor, Mr Denis Hughes, he informed me that the United States Government would **not** sell Australia the Lockheed -Martin F-22.

This is to ask if you could personally ask the U.S. President if they would lift any such ban. (I'm suggesting cashing in a few goodwill chips) If you then advise despite your personal request, that they refuse to supply the F-22 to their closest ally, then so be it; we will have to consider a second best solution to our most important and costly defence acquisition.

2. This is to strongly urge you and your Committee colleagues to postpone until well into next year, and certainly not prior to the JSCFADT Report, the signing of the imminent Memorandum Of Understanding in respect to the Joint Strike Fighter as a consequence of its delayed development schedule and massive cost escalation and until better and more economical solutions are fully explored. (and of course depending on the outcome of para.1 above)

Please do not refer this letter to the Defence Dept. for them to reply, as these two requests are for your personal action as Chairman of the National Security Committee, and I do not want them subject to Defences usual obfuscation and excessive delays.

I would be happy to elaborate on any of the above points. Ph (02)8969 6453.

Thank you.
Yours sincerely



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

15 DEC 2006

Mr John R Peake
4/1A Lillis Street
CAMMERAY NSW 2062

Dear Mr Peake

Thank you for your letter of 9 November which outlined your concerns with respect to the transition of our air combat capabilities and the possible acquisition of the F-22 combat aircraft.

No final decision has been made on our replacement air combat capability. I would prefer not to outline the options under consideration at this stage. You can be assured that the government will put in place a plan that will maintain our world class capabilities in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Howard".

(John Howard)