

# Laborites' 'Fortress Australia' plan means clear sailing for the Soviets

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In late May, Australian Defense Minister Kim Beazley will release the highly classified "Dibb Report," on Australia's military doctrine. One year in the making, the report proposes radical shifts in defense policies and force structures. From the previous policy of forward defense and close collaboration with its allies, in particular with the United States, in the ANZUS Pact, Australia's Socialist International government proposes to retrench toward "self-reliance" in a 1,100 kilometer zone around Australia's coast. The proposed changes, together with the rejection of the U.S. offer to participate in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), signal the complete disintegration of the ANZUS alliance, among Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

Commissioned by the 38-year-old former Rhodes scholar Beazley from Australian National University's Paul Dibb, the report betrays a quality of strategic thinking, that exceeds the follies of the French Maginot Line. It not only contracts Australia's own defense capabilities, but jeopardizes key U.S. bases as well.

## 'The 10-year warning time'

All competent strategic thinking in the world today recognizes a reality which Dibb ignores: the awesome Soviet military buildup and drive for world domination, as documented in EIR's Special Report, *Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988*. As Dibb stated to *The Bulletin* magazine of Australia, on April 8, "One of the things I thought very important in intelligence was the concept of warning time—that we would have 10 years' warning of a major assault on Australia because it would take any country other than the superpowers at least that long to prepare the sort of forces necessary."

Even apart from this elimination of the Soviet threat with one pen stroke, Dibb's idea of a 10-year warning time is ludicrous. As one leading U.S. strategic thinker commented, after noting the extensive Soviet military buildup in the Pacific and the existence of Vietnam's 1-million-man, highly equipped, battle-tested army, "What universe are these guys [Beazley, Dibb] living in? What this report really says is

## The ANZAC Corridor

The ANZAC Corridor of the Pentagon enshrines the long tradition of cooperation among the U.S., Australian, and New Zealand forces, which Dibb seeks to end.

The first U.S. and ANZAC force contacts began during the U.S. fleet visit "down under" of 1907-08. The display, "Europe 1917-18," points out how, in summer 1918, regiments of the untrained U.S. 80th Division were trained by, and went under their first fire with, the New Zealand Division. The 131st and 132nd Regiment of the U.S. 33rd Division were "trained by and received their baptismal fire" with the Fourth Australian Division.

In the crucial battle of Sundu Straits in February 1942, as the Japanese rolled down through the Pacific Islands toward Australia, the *USS Houston* and the Australian ship, *HMAS Perth*, fought side by side until both ships went down, guns still firing, with both captains and 800 men, having made a major contribution to slowing the Japanese advance.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's field commander, Lt. Gen. Harmon, had "only the greatest praise" for the 3rd New Zealand Division commanded by Maj. Gen. Barrowclough, for their campaigns of Vella Vanda, the Treasury Islands, the bitter fighting at Bougainville, and elsewhere. As a top U.S. officer, also with MacArthur in the Pacific, recently put it, "There is no way an American soldier will ever forget the valor of these people. Their units were decorated almost every day."

The same qualities were exhibited by the ANZAC troops during the fighting alongside American units in Korea and Vietnam.