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

20  
12/01/07

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Dear Mr Howard,

Re Air Combat Capability Plan: **your reply 15 th Dec 2006**

I was heartened to receive a reply that was actually signed by you as I hope it means you actually read my two requests. (of 09/11/06) As you did not respond to the two specifics, this is to ask again whether you would indeed approach the President of the U.S. re releasing the F-22 to Australia.

Since writing my first letter, I observe the US Secretary Of State Dr. Rice telling the world what a wonderful ally and loyal friend we are, so all the more reason for the US to make this aircraft available to us. Having a couple of squadrons of F-22s would of course make us a more influential and more self reliant ally to the US, as well as give future generations real security, due to its unique air dominance. Current proposals will not.

On the second issue, by the time I received your reply Defence had in the meantime proceeded with the MOU for the F-35 JSF. There is a huge body of expert evidence to show this is the wrong aircraft for Australia and will leave us vulnerable and weaken our position regionally. It is shaping as the costliest error of all time.

Now we learn of an interim plan to buy 24 F-18 F Super Hornets. Another gross error. I enclose a recent succinct article summarising the position, which I respectfully ask you to take two minutes to read. The Defence Minister ought be instructed to **study** the Submissions to JSCFADT before any further steps or confirmation, are taken. (His Dept. says he will not)

I am not assured at all by what is proposed by Defence, and beg you to get personally involved without delay.

Yours sincerely,