

EXTRATERRITORIALITY - EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT

The Australian Ambassador to the USA, Sir Robert Cotton, wrote to members of the House/Senate Administration Act on 14 March 1984 on the renewal of the Export Administration Act. He pointed out the Australian view..." that US claims to extraterritorial jurisdiction are substantially unsupported by international law and are contrary to the principle of international courts". Further, sanctions imposed retroactively were opposed The Australian Government "... remained concerned by proposals that provide for unilateral import sanctions on those who violate US national security controls. We believe that such action could adversely affect international trade and investment and conflicts wwhich generally recognized rules developed in the GATT and the OECD."

The Ambassador finally stressed that "...closer co-operation and consultation between allies rather than unilateral measures..." was the appropriate course to promote the common security of the allies while minimising conflict of jurisdiction.