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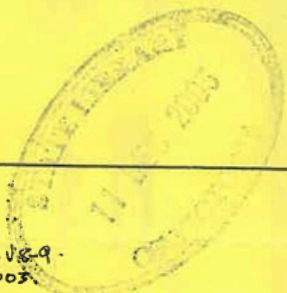
Historically, all reactionary forces on the verge of extinction invariably conduct a last desperate struggle against the revolutionary forces, and some revolutionaries are apt to be deluded for a time by this phenomenon of outward strength but inner weakness, failing to grasp the essential fact that the enemy is nearing extinction while they themselves are approaching victory.

"The Turning Point in World War II" (October 12, 1942), *Selected Works*, Vol. III, p. 103.

## 7. DARE TO STRUGGLE AND DARE TO WIN

People of the world, unite and defeat the U.S. aggressors and all their running dogs! People of the world, be courageous, dare to fight, defy difficulties and advance wave upon wave. Then the whole world will belong to the people. Monsters of all kinds shall be destroyed.

"Statement Supporting the People of the Congo (L.) Against U.S. Aggression" (November 28, 1964), *People of the World, Unite and Defeat the U.S. Aggressors and All Their Lackeys*, 2nd ed., p. 14.



# \$50bn for new defence arsenal

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'The protection of Australia's borders remains as important as ever'

Robert Hill  
Defence Minister

Robert Hill said yesterday. But the Howard Government has also reaffirmed the existing defence-of-Australia doctrine as the "primary driver" of the future force structure.

"Tasks such as the protection of Australia's borders remain as important as ever," Senator Hill said.

"The Government has decided to provide the ADF with new assets, equipment and capabilities that will ensure it continues to be able to defend Australia and Australian interests in an uncertain and complex environment."

He declined to give precise costings, claiming the revised capability plan would be accommodated within existing budget guidelines.

The RAAF will phase out its F-111 strike force from 2010 — five years earlier than planned — as the Government confirmed plans to acquire up to 100 Joint Strike Fighters to replace both the F-111s and the F/A-18s from about 2013.

The navy will get three new multi-purpose amphibious ships to carry troops and helicopters from 2010, and four of the existing FFG frig-

ates will be upgraded with new missiles.

Both the new air-warfare destroyers and the amphibious transports are expected to be built in Australia, giving a big boost to naval construction.

But the savings offsets will include early retirement for two frigates and two Huon class minehunters.

After a long debate, the Government accepted the army's case for new tanks, but has stopped short of a final decision on which one to buy.

This means the Government is yet to agree to Defence chief Peter Cosgrove's preference for the US-built Abrams tank.

General Cosgrove said anti-armour weapons were proliferating in the hands of otherwise lightly armed troops: "These weapons will knock out a lightly armed vehicle quite easily."

Air Force chief Angus Houston said the upgrade of the frontline fighters, the F/A-18 Hornets, together with new airborne early warning aircraft, would maintain Australia's air defences, even if there was a gap between the phasing out of the F-111s and delivery of the \$12 billion Joint Strike Fighter from 2013.

"It (the F-111) is a very old platform and the risk of capability failure will increase with age," he said.

Opposition defence spokesman Chris Evans said the plan would see the scrapping of many important capabilities for the defence of Australia.

"The Government has been unable to address the reported \$12 billion blowout in the Defence Capability Plan.

"Its solution has been to make major cuts to Australia's long-term defence equipment priorities."

Patrick Walters  
National security editor  
John Kerin

FEDERAL cabinet has approved a \$50 billion blueprint for the next-generation Australian defence force that includes a contentious billion-dollar tank purchase as well as new destroyers and strike aircraft.

The revised equipment plan marries the core doctrine of protecting Australia with the Government's desire to increase the defence force's ability to operate overseas and fight in the global struggle against terrorism.

The Government has approved plans for three new multi-billion-dollar destroyers as well as three new amphibious support ships, which will allow more military force to be sent overseas on sustained operations.

"The importance to the Government of the ability to safely deploy, lodge and sustain Australian forces offshore has been reaffirmed," Defence Minister

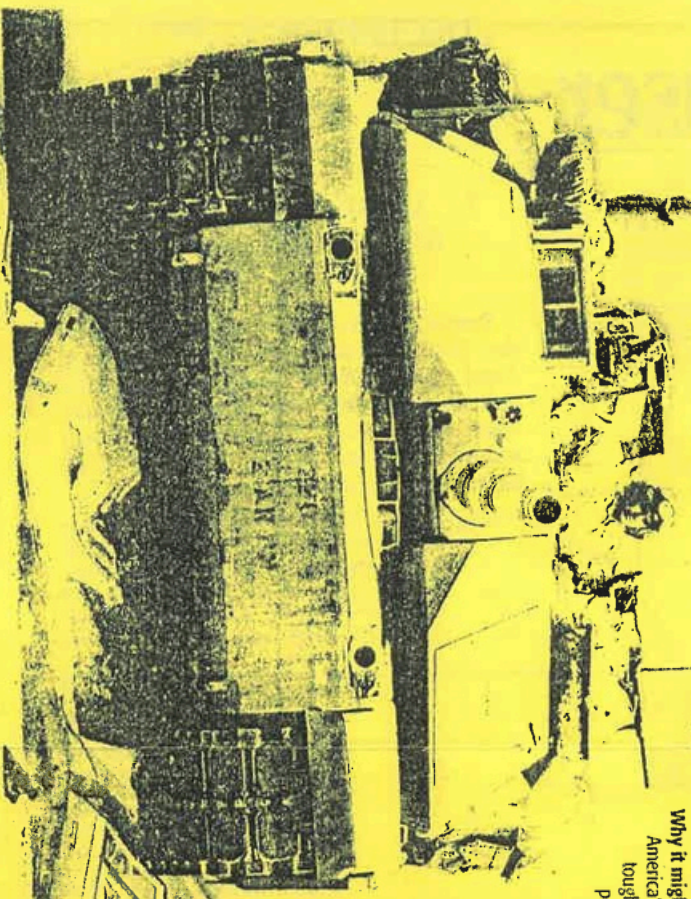
THE 'NATIONAL INTEREST' IS THE INTERESTS OF BIG BUSINESS.  
IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO PAY FOR ALL THIS MILITARY  
HARDWARE TO DEFEND THE PROFITS OF TRANS NATIONAL  
CORPORATIONS INSIDE AUSTRALIA AND OUTSIDE.

## WHO PAYS?

THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T 'AFFORD' EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN. CAN'T AFFORD MATERNITY LEAVE. CAN'T AFFORD THE EXPANSION OF PRE-SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN.

### Defence Capability Review findings

M1 Abrams



**Made in US**  
Estimated cost \$8.5 million each  
Vital statistics 69 tonnes; gas turbine engine; 120 mm gun; top speed of 67 km/h  
Served in Iraq, Gulf War. Also used by Saudi and Kuwaiti defence forces

#### Why it might win

America's tank of choice: very tough with good record of protecting crew, the US and Australia could decide to join the club and share training development and other costs. Protected against nuclear, biological and chemical warfare

#### Why it might lose

Expensive, big, heavy and cumbersome, and a gas guzzler



Challenger II

**Made in Great Britain**  
Estimated cost \$10 million



**Why it might win** More fuel-efficient than other options; the ADF has long experience with its existing Leopards which now need to be replaced; used by armies including Austria, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and Spain. Significantly cheaper than other options

#### Why it might lose

Political concerns that the German manufacturer might not supply parts if German government did not support Australia's actions, which has already happened to Israel

**Vital statistics** 62.5 tonnes; diesel engine; 120 mm gun; top speed of 59 km/h

Served in Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia and Kosovo. The British Army's main tank; also used by Oman defence force

**Why it might win** The latest version is designed for harsh climates; includes nuclear, biological and chemical protection system

**Why it might lose** A dark horse not publicly mooted by ADF before; earlier models have experienced problems in desert conditions

#### Air Force

- F-111 fighter bomber to be retired in 2010 instead of 2015
- \$12 billion US F-35 Joint Strike Fighter project to proceed – Australia to purchase up to 100 aircraft. Delivery 2015
- New air-to-air refuellers costing \$2 billion
- F/A-18 Hornets to be upgraded with laser and satellite guided munitions and other advances at a cost of \$1 billion
- Replacement of AP-3C Orion aircraft at a cost of \$2 billion

#### Navy

- Four frigates to get new surface-to-air missiles
- HMAS Tobruk to be replaced with a larger multi-role troop transport ship from 2010

- HMAS Manoora and HMAS Kanimbla troop and transport ships also to be replaced by larger versions of up to 20,000 tonnes from 2010
- Three air warfare destroyers costing more than \$5 billion to be replaced from 2006
- Two older-style FFG class frigates to be retired from 2006 – the ageing HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Canberra are the most likely candidates
- Two Huon minehunter vessels will be mothballed
- Retriever HMAS Westralia will be replaced with a more modest refuelling ship in 2006

Crunch time: An M1 Abrams in action during the Iraq conflict

CARE OF THE AGED IS IN CRISIS. MEDICARE IS UNDER SEVERE THREAT. PUBLIC HOUSING IS URGENTLY NEEDED. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS. PART-TIME WORK IS REPLACING FULL-TIME WORK HOURS OF WORK ARE LONGER, MUCH OF IT WITHOUT PAY. 1 IN 5 PEOPLE ARE ON SOME FORM OF SOCIAL SECURITY.