

**SPEECH FOR 2 SEPTEMBER – “CHILOUT” – PADDINGTON  
BY ADRIAN D’HAGE**

**GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING – AND I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE ORGANISERS FOR THE PROMOTION TO GENERAL – SOMETHING THAT WAS QUITE BEYOND ME UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.**

**AS SOMEONE WHO NO LONGER HAS TO ATTEND ENDLESS BRIEFINGS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE’S RUSSELL OFFICES IN CANBERRA – MORE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS “FORT FUMBLE” – I SOMETIMES HAVE THE LUXURY OF LISTENING TO PM ON RADIO NATIONAL AT 5 O’CLOCK, WHICH IN TURN ALLOWS ME TO FOLLOW SANDY McCUTCHEON’S “AUSTRALIA TALKS BACK” AT 6 – A SORT OF “UP MARKET VERSION” OF ALAN JONES AND JOHN LAWS. AND I WAS DRIVING TO MY RETREAT IN THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND BOWRAL LAST WEEK – TUNED IN TO McCUTCHEON WHEN THE SUBJECT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS CAME UP AND A SOMEWHAT AGITATED LADY WITH A VERY CULTURED VOICE RANG IN FROM PERTH.**

**“THIS COUNTRY,” SHE OPINED, IS A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY, FOUNDED BY CHRISTIANS, AND WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES. AND THESE OTHER PEOPLE,” – AND SHE SEEMED TO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY AFFORDING ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES THE STATUS OF BEING ACTUAL PEOPLE – “ARE NOT CHRISTIANS AND HAVE NO PLACE IN A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY. AND THEY COME HERE,” SHE POMPOUSED ON, “HAVING CAUSED NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.....” NOW SANDY McCUTCHEON IS SCRUPULOUSLY FAIR IN GIVING PEOPLE OF ALL POINTS OF VIEW A GO BUT BY THEN EVEN HE HAD HAD ENOUGH AND – AS ENTITLED TO HER VIEW AS SHE**

**MIGHT BE IN THIS DEMOCRACY THAT THE WAR AGAINST TERROR SEEKS TO PROTECT – McCUTCHEON MERCIFULLY APPLIED THE OVERRIDE BUTTON TO LADY PONSONBY-SMYTHE AND WE MOVED ON.**

**OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS OUR MAIN CONCERN – THAT OF CHILDREN IN CUSTODY – HAS ALREADY BEEN WELL-ARTICULATED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS AND OTHERS FAR MORE QUALIFIED THAN I – SO – ALTHOUGH IT IS A THEME WITH WHICH I WILL START THIS ADDRESS, I DO I WANT TO EXAMINE TWO OTHER BROADER ISSUES THAT ARE IMPACTING ON THE INCREDIBLE PRACTICE OF INCARCERATING CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA – THE GOVERNMENT’S POLICY ON THE WAR AGAINST TERROR AND THE VIEW ESPOUSED BY OUR FELLOW AUSTRALIAN IN PERTH – ONE OF INTOLERANCE IN RELIGION.**

**BUT BEFORE I GET ON TO THOSE TWO ISSUES, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY SUPPORT TO A PROPOSAL ESPOUSED AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LAST MONTH BY NEVILLE ROACH, WHO WAS FOR SIX YEARS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA AND LIKE THOSE IN CHILOUT, SOMEONE WHO WORKS TIRELESSLY FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY. IN CONJUNCTION WITH RACIAL RESPECT, NEVILLE PROPOSED FOUR KEY CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT POLICY. AS HE ADMITTED, CHANGE DOES NOT COME EASILY, PARTICULARLY IN THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA, BUT A REVISED POLICY OF COMPASSION, GENEROSITY AND COMMON SENSE AS DISTINCT FROM SELFISHNESS AND PARANOIA THAT THE PRESENT POLICY ENCOURAGES IS MORE LIKE THE AUSTRALIA THAT I HAVE KNOWN AND IT IS PUBLIC OPINION THAT WE MUST WORK ON. HE PROPOSED:**

- **FIRSTLY, AN ABANDONMENT OF THIS PUNITIVE POLICY OF LOCKING CHILDREN AND ADULTS UP BEHIND RAZOR WIRE IN THE DESERT AND A RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES WE UPHELD IN 1996 WHEN PERMANENT RESIDENCE WAS GRANTED ONCE THEIR REFUGEE STATUS WAS APPROVED. BASIC HUMANITY AND WHAT SHOULD BE THE AUSTRALIAN WAY SAYS THAT WITH SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS – AND THAT SUPPORT HAS ALREADY BEEN OFFERED – WE CAN EASILY ACCOMMODATE THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WE ARE ASKED TO DEAL WITH;**
- **SECONDLY, WE SHOULD WORK TO A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS IN TARGETING THE PEOPLE-SMUGGLERS, RATHER THAN USING INNOCENT PEOPLE AS SOME SORT OF DESERT BILL BOARD TO DETER THEM.**
- **THIRDLY, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OPEN OUR DOORS A LITTLE WIDER TO REFUGEES INSTEAD OF TRYING TO SLAM THEM SHUT. THE RESULTS, AS THEY HAVE OVER THE LAST 200 YEARS MIGHT SURPRISE US; AND FINALLY,**
- **OUR POLICIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS MUST BE POLICIES OF VISION. THE PACIFIC SOLUTION WILL NOT BE A GOER IN 2020. WE NEED TO LAY NOW THE FOUNDATIONS THAT CAN DEAL WITH THE MORE GLOBALISED WORLD OF 2020 AND A WORK TOWARD A GENUINE MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY, RATHER THAN ONE SUPPORTED BY OUR LADY IN PERTH THAT CONSIGNS SOME ETHNIC GROUPS TO LOWER STATUS AS INFERIORS ON AN ETHNIC TOTEM POLE. WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE CAUSES OF REFUGEES AS WELL AS THE CONSEQUENCES.**

**AND IT IS TO THIS LAST POINT AND THE ISSUES OF TOLERANCE IN RELIGION AND THE PARANOIA OF THE WAR AGAINST TERROR THAT I NOW TURN. I SPEAK TO YOU TONIGHT AS BOTH A SOLDIER AND A**

THEOLOGIAN BECAUSE AS I SEE IT, THESE ARE TWO VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT ARE AT LEAST IN PART, IMPEDING A JUST SOLUTION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THIS COUNTRY.

OF COURSE POLITICIANS WILL PUBLICLY AND LOUDLY DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE CURRENT POLICY AGAINST ASYLUM SEEKERS IS IN ANY WAY A POLICY AGAINST MUSLIMS OR ISLAM. BUT IN PRACTICE NEITHER THEY NOR OUR CHURCH LEADERS, WITH SOME NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS, PROVIDE ANYTHING LIKE THE LEADERSHIP THAT IS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE ESPOUSED BY OUR LADY IN PERTH. IN FACT, IT IS POLITICALLY INCORRECT AND TO SOME EVEN OFFENSIVE TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE – AND GIVEN TONIGHT’S VENUE – PERHAPS ESPECIALLY SO (HE SAYS – HOPING THE ROOF WILL NOT COLLAPSE). BUT I INTEND TO WADE INTO IT BRIEFLY – *BECAUSE RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IS PART OF THE FEAR FACTOR OF DIFFERENCE* THAT HAS BEEN SO BRILLIANTLY EXPLOITED BY THE PRESENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

A FEW YEARS BACK I WAS A COMMITTED CHRISTIAN AND GIVEN MY SOMEWHAT COLOURFUL PAST, TO THE BEMUSEMENT OF MY COLLEAGUES I COMPLETED TWO DEGREES IN THEOLOGY. PERHAPS I AM A SLOW LEARNER, BUT AT THE END OF 8 YEARS OF STUDY OF DOGMA AND DOCTRINE I CAME TO HAVE A DEEP RESPECT – A DEEP RESPECT – FOR ANYONE’S RIGHT TO FOLLOW A PARTICULAR PATH OF FAITH, BUT I ALSO CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT RELIGION IS LARGELY AN ACCIDENT OF BIRTH AND I BEGAN TO QUESTION THE DESIGNER. IF ANY OF YOU HERE TONIGHT WERE BORN IN BAGHDAD, YOU WOULD MOST UNLIKELY BE CHRISTIAN. YOU WOULD LIKELY BE SUNNI OR MORE LIKELY PART OF THE MAJORITY BUT OPPRESSED AND

**DOWNTRODDEN IRAQI SHI'ITE THAT ARE PART OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF ANY ATTACK ON IRAQ.**

**AND IT MAY BE SOMEWHAT OF A REVELATION TO OUR LADY IN PERTH, BUT IF ANY OF US WERE BORN IN BOORALOOA IN THE GULF COUNTRY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, WE WOULD NOT BE CHRISTIAN, SUNNI, OR SHI'ITE BUT WOULD HAVE A 99% CHANCE OF BEING PART OF THE WONDERS OF THE DREAMING. YET THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDERS AND MISSIONARIES TO WHOM OUR PERTH COLLEAGUE REFERS, ALBEIT WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, DENOUNCED OUR ABORIGINAL BROTHERS AS PAGANS AND ORDERED THEM TO RENOUNCE THE RAINBOW SERPENT WHILST AT THE SAME TIME REFERRING THEM TO GENESIS AND DEMANDING THEY TAKE A LOT OF NOTICE OF A TALKING SNAKE. MY POINT BEING THAT I THINK WE FAIL, AS A HUMAN SPECIES, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY STRANGE GOD, CREATOR, HOLY SPIRIT, ALLAH, YAHWEH, - WHATEVER DEITY WE ASSIGN TO THE SPIRITUAL FORCE AND CHIEF SCIENTIST OF THE UNIVERSE THAT WOULD SAY – I'M SORRY GUYS, IF YOU'RE AUSTRALIAN AND YOU'RE NOT CHRISTIAN – YOU'RE ON THE WRONG TRAM AND YOU'RE HEADED FOR DOWN THERE. IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE TODAY, THERE IS A REQUIREMENT MORE THAN EVER FOR TOLERANCE OF BELIEFS, FOR TOLERANCE OF ORIGIN, FOR TOLERANCE – IN FACT MORE THAN TOLERANCE – FOR A LOVE OF DIFFERENCE AND DIVERSITY. AND IN THIS COUNTRY ESPECIALLY, IT IS DIVERSITY THAT IS THE GREAT UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF AUSTRALIA - ONE OF THE GREATEST MULTICULTURAL SUCCESS STORIES OF THE MODERN ERA. RATHER THAN FORMULATE POLICY FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS THAT IS BASED ON OPINIONS SO OFTEN EXPRESSED ON TALK-BACK RADIO THAT IN TURN ARE DRIVEN BY IGNORANCE AND A FEAR OF DIFFERENCE, REAL LEADERSHIP WOULD SEEK TO PROMOTE THE STRENGTHS OF DIVERSITY THAT HAVE MADE**

**THIS COUNTRY WHAT IT IS. AND WHERE IT IS POLITICALLY INCORRECT TO EXAMINE THE UNDERLYING RELIGIOUS CURRENTS, WE WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THE THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC FAITHS ALL TRACE THEIR ORIGINS TO ABRAHAM, AND THE COMMON MESSAGE OF YAHWEH, CHRIST AND MUHAMMED IS ONE OF LOVE AND TOLERANCE FOR THOSE EITHER SIDE OF US.**

**SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE READ A SOMEWHAT CHILLING ARTICLE IN THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE ABOUT A COURSE AT THE COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH CAROLINA THAT TRAINS CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES ON THE TECHNIQUES OF GOING UNDERCOVER WITH A MISSION TO DESTROY ISLAM. IT WAS AN ISSUE THAT GAINED SOME PROMINENCE IN THIS COUNTRY A WHILE BACK WITH THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TWO AUSTRALIANS IN AFGHANISTAN – DIANA THOMAS AND PETER BUNCH. AMIDST THE ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY IN THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY THAT CHRISTIANITY IS THE ONLY TRUTH AND THAT OTHER RELIGIONS ARE SATANICALLY INSPIRED, ONE OF THE COLUMBIAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS HAS EXPRESSED THE FEAR, AND I QUOTE, “THAT MUSLIMS ARE HAVING BABIES FASTER THAN WE ARE.”**

**AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, THERE ARE JUST AS MANY FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIMS, NONE MORE NOTORIOUS THAN THE RECENTLY DEPOSED TALIBAN WHO SEEK TO SEE THE CRESCENT TRIUMPH OVER THE CROSS IN A SORT OF REVERSAL OF THE SAVAGERY OF THE CRUSADES. IT IS A PATH WE FOLLOW AT OUR PERIL. NEITHER SIDE HAS WON IN THE PAST. NEITHER SIDE WILL WIN IN THE FUTURE, BUT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, GRANDSONS AND GRANDAUGHTERS WILL GET KILLED IN THE PROCESS.**

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE WAR AGAINST TERROR AND HOWARD AND ALEXANDER DOWNER'S DESIRE TO BE FIRST INTO IRAQ WITH GEORGE "W". IT IS STRONGLY ALLIED TO THE SUCCESSFUL POLICY OF KEEPING OUR BORDERS SECURE AND THE FEAR OF DIFFERENCE. HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW MANY WORLD LEADERS, AS SOON AS THERE IS A PROBLEM, MAKE IT PART OF GEORGE "W'S" WAR AGAINST TERROR. IN THIS COUNTRY, BEFORE THE LAST ELECTION WE HAD THOSE FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS WITH THE WORDS "WE DECIDE WHO COMES TO THIS COUNTRY AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY COME" EMBLAZONED UNDER A PHOTOGRAPH OF JOHN HOWARD CLENCHING HIS FISTS. JOHN HOWARD CHOSE QUEENSLAND TO ANNOUNCE THAT 'AUSTRALIANS HAD NO WAY OF BEING CERTAIN TERRORISTS WERE NOT AMONG THE ASYLUM SEEKERS SEEKING TO ENTER THE COUNTRY BY BOAT.' THE PRIME MINISTER HAS HIS CRITICS BUT I HAVE NOT HEARD ANYONE ACCUSE HIM OF BEING UNINTELLIGENT. JOHN HOWARD KNOWS WELL THAT OSAMA BIN LADEN AND SADDAM HUSSEIN ET AL DO NOT SPEND HUGE AMOUNTS OF TIME AND MONEY TRAINING AIRLINE PILOTS, ONLY TO PUT THEM ABOARD LEAKING BOATS TO AUSTRALIA, WISHING THEM WELL WITH A PAT ON THE BACK AND 'I HOPE YOU MAKE IT'. BUT OUR POLICITIANNS HAVE BEEN EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING ORDINARY AUSTRALIANS FEARFUL THAT ASYLUM SEEKERS WILL LOCK UP OUR WOMEN, MAKE BEARDS AND BURQAS COMPULSORY AND SOMEHOW IMPERIL THE FAMILY BARBECUE. AND NOW, AS PART OF THIS WAR AGAINST TERROR AND KEEPING US AND OUR BORDERS SAFE, THEY WANT US TO ATTACK IRAQ. SADDAM AND THE IRAQIS ARE THE ENEMY, AND BY IMPLICATION, IRAQI ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE CONVENIENTLY TAINTED WITH THE SAME BRUSH, THE IRONY BEING THAT ANY WAR IN IRAQ WILL PRODUCE TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE. WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THE PICTURES OF THOSE THREE IRAQI CHILDREN WHO WERE

**WRENCHED FROM THE ARMS OF THEIR MOTHER AND DROWNED ALONG WITH 350 OTHERS WHEN THE SO-CALLED SIEV X WENT DOWN, PROMPTING A PREVIOUS PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES TO REMARK: “I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT WHEN I SAW THOSE THREE LITTLE GIRLS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF ALL THE PAPERS THIS MORNING, SUDDENLY IT TOLD ME THAT MR RUDDOCK WAS WRONG. WE’RE NOT DEALING WITH PROBLEMS, WE’RE DEALING WITH PEOPLE.”**

**WHEN IT COMES TO THE RELATED WAR ON TERROR, I’M NOT SURE WHO WORRIES ME THE MOST – ALEXANDER WITH HIS NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN ‘ANTI-APPEASEMENT’ IN REVERSE ROUTINE OR GEORGE “W” ANNOUNCING THAT HIS SUMMER READING INCLUDES A BOOK ON LEADERSHIP AND HIGH COMMAND. BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT OUGHT GIVE OUR POLITICAL LEADERS PAUSE FOR THOUGHT BEFORE WE HEAD OFF TO THE TIGRIS AND THE EUPHRATES – AND THAT IS THE NUMBER OF MARINE CORPS GENERALS COMING OUT AND TURNING ON THE ORANGE LIGHT.**

**I KNEW ONE MARINE GENERAL IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES WHO YEARS BEFORE SEPTMBER 11 HAD HIS DESK SANDBAGGED IN AND HIS BATTLE EQUIPMENT HANGING ON THE WALL OF HIS OFFICE. DESPIGHT THE UNDOUBTED VALOUR OF THOSE UNDER THEIR COMMAND, WHEN IT COMES TO DIPLOMACY, MANY MARINE GENERALS ARE INCAPABLE OF GRASPING ANYTHING MORE SUBTLE THAN A SLEDGE HAMMER. YET MANY OF THE GENERALS URGING CAUTION TODAY ARE IN FACT MARINES.**

**AND AS USUAL, AUSTRALIANS ARE NOT BEING TOLD THE FULL STORY BEFORE THEY ARE ASKED TO SIGN UP FOR ALEXANDER’S RAGTIME BAND IN DOWNTOWN BAGHDAD. THIS WILL NOT BE AFGHANISTAN –**



**SADDAM STILL HAS A 400,000 STRONG ARMY, 6,000 ARMoured VEHICLES AND 2,500 ARTILLERY PIECES. IRAQ IS A VERY COMPLEX COUNTRY OF VERY OPPRESSED PEOPLE. THE MINORITY SUNNIS DOMINATE THE CENTER, THE SHIA'S THE SOUTH AND THE KURDS THE NORTH. AND UNLIKE THE IMAGE OF IRAQI ASYLUM SEEKERS THE GOVERNMENT MAKES LITTLE IF ANY EFFORT TO CORRECT, MANY OF THEM ARE DECENT HARD-WORKING CITIZENS, NOT INCLUDING OF COURSE, THE CHIEF THUG AND HIS VARIOUS HENCHMEN AND LIEUTENANTS.**

**MANY AUSTRALIANS ARE NOT TOLD THE REAL REASON BEHIND US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST – YET OUR GOVERNMENT STANDS FIRMLY BESIDE AMERICA. WE WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN, IF WE WERE EVER TOLD THAT AT THE END OF THE GULF WAR, THE OPPRESSED SHI'ITE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH REBELLED AGAINST SADDAM AND THEIR SUNNI OFFICERS. AS SHI'ITE SOLDIERS IN A TANK RETREATING FROM THE BLOODBATH OF KUWAIT ROLLED INTO SAAD SQUARE IN BASRA AT THE JUNCTION OF THE TIGRIS AND THE EUPHRATES, THEY STOPPED AND BLASTED A PORTRAIT OF SADDAM WITH A HIGH EXPLOSIVE ROUND. FURTHER NORTH, THE LONG SUFFERING AND GASSED KURDS REBELLED. BUT EVER EAGER FOR STABILITY, THE US ALLOWED THE SUNNIS TO REGROUP AROUND SADDAM USING THE WELL-PAID AND WELL-EQUIPPED SUNNI REPUBLICAN GUARDS. AUSTRALIA, EVER AT THE BECK AND CALL OF THE US, SAID NOTHING. AT THAT POINT THE ALLIES LOST THE PLOT AND THE GULF WAR. THE US ALLIANCE DID NOT LIFT A FINGER TO HELP EITHER THE OPPRESSED SHIA'S IN THE SOUTH OR THE KURDS IN THE NORTH. WHY?**

**THE US REASONED THAT ALTHOUGH SADDAM HAD BEEN DISOBEDIENT AND WAS A MURDEROUS THUG, HE OFFERED THE BEST CHANCE FOR STABILITY – BECAUSE WITH 100 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL IN**

**RESERVES, IRAQ IS SECOND ONLY TO SAUDI ARABIA, BACKED BY AND PROTECTED BY TROOPS OF, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ONE OF THE REASONS WE HAVE AL QAEDA AND OSAMA BIN LADEN.**

**AND FINALLY, WE HAVE ISRAEL. IN MAY 1973, THE US SENATE'S LEADING SPECIALIST ON OIL AND THE MIDDLE EAST, DEMOCRATIC HAWK HENRY JACKSON, OBSERVED THE US DOMINANCE OF THE REGION IS SAFEGUARDED BY THE STRENGTH AND WESTERN ORIENTATION OF ISRAEL. (SALE OF ARMS TO IRAN AFTER THE FALL OF THE SHAH). THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS IS NOW DEMONSTRABLY WORSE – SOMETHING THAT BY ALIGNING OURSELVES WITH THE US POLICY, AUSTRALIA TACITLY SUPPORTS. BUT IT IS SADDAM HUSSEIN, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, WHO HAS VOWED TO FIGHT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. WE WOULD DO WELL TO PONDER THE LEGITIMACY THAT NOW GIVES HIM IN THE EYES OF MANY ARABS. WE MIGHT STILL FAVOUR ATTACKING IRAQ AND WE MIGHT STILL SUPPORT ALEXANDER'S VIEW OF SADDAM AS THE ENEMY – BUT WE NEED TO KNOW THAT AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT OF THE US IN A WAR WITH IRAQ IS GOING TO PRODUCE A LOT MORE ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND AN AWFUL LOT OF ARABS ARE ALREADY SEEING US AS AN ENEMY AND AS A LAPDOG OF THE US. AND THE IRONY IS, IF YOU ASK AMERICANS, THEY WILL HAVE NO IDEA THAT WE HAVE TAKEN THE STANCE WE HAVE. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES WE ARE BACKING AND IF WE LOSE A FEW BILLION IN WHEAT SALES IN THE PROCESS, QUITE FRANKLY, MOST IN THE US WILL NOT KNOW, AND THOSE IN POWER WILL NOT CARE.**

**LEADERSHIP ENTAILS VISION. AS WELL AS CHANGING PUBLIC OPINION AND GENERATING SUPPORT FOR THE FOUR POINTS THAT NEVILLE ROACH RAISED AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, AUSTRALIA**

**NEEDS TO TAKE A MORE INDEPENDENT ROLE. IF WE ARE TO AVOID BOATLOADS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS TURNING UP IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS HERE AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD, WE NEED TO LOOK TOWARD 2020. RATHER THAN SIGNING UP FOR WAR BEFORE THE US EVEN DECIDES TO DECLARE IT, WE SHOULD BE URGING SOLUTIONS THAT LOOK BEYOND THE LAST RESORT. WE SHOULD BE URGING THE US TO STOP BEING THE BULLY ON THE BLOCK AND TO BE EVEN HANDED IN A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST. WE SHOULD BE URGING THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, THE LACK OF WHICH IS ONE OF THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE PROBLEMS WE NOW FACE. INSTEAD OF PROMOTING FEAR OF DIFFERENCE AND RESULTANT LOATHING IN THE COMMUNITY. INSTEAD OF IMPLYING THAT REFUGEE BOATS COULD HAVE BEEN SENT BY OSAMA BIN LADEN, OUR LEADERS, INCLUDING OUR CHURCH LEADERS, SHOULD BE FINDING WAYS TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE OF THE VARIOUS PATHS OF RELIGION.**

**AND WHEN WE LOOK BACK ON THE DEATHS OF 353 DESPERATE ASYLUM SEEKERS, INCLUDING THOSE THREE LITTLE IRAQI GIRLS FLEEING A TYRANT THAT THE US AND BY IMPLICATION AUSTRALIA HAS, IN YEARS GONE BY, PROPPED UP AND SUPPORTED – IT TOOK THEIR DEATHS TO PROMPT US TO REFLECT THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH PEOPLE RATHER THAN A PROBLEM. WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY AND COUNTRIES IN OUR REGION? WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT US AS AUSTRALIANS?**

**WE ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE THE US OVERNIGHT, BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS APPALLING, UNWORKABLE, COMPASSIONLESS POLICY AGAINST THREE SMALL IRAQI GIRLS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS. WE CAN ASK OURSELVES IF THOSE IRAQI**

**KIDS WERE OUR 3 SMALL DAUGHTERS, WOULD WE FIND THE MONEY, SELL EVERYTHING WE HAD AND RISK EVERYTHING TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE AT LIFE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT EVEN IF THEY BEAT ALL THE ODDS – AUSTRALIA AND 71% OF US WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO DENY THEM THAT CHANCE. WE CAN CHANGE THAT. WE MUST CHANGE THAT. AND WITH THE HELP OF ORGANISATIONS LIKE CHILOUT AND RACIAL RESPECT, WE WILL.**

**THANK YOU.**