

V111 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW:TRADE WITH TAIWAN

The following appeared in Hansard, Debates, Senate, 5 March 1984:-

**Trade with Taiwan**  
(Question No. 598)

**Senator Jones** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon notice, on 15 December 1983:

(1) Are Taiwan and Australia planning to set up a non-governmental trade co-operation committee to enhance commercial relations between the two countries?

(2) Does the Federal Government sanction an improvement in commercial relations between Taiwan and Australia?

(3) What effect would upgrading commercial ties with Taiwan have on trade and diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China?

**Senator Gareth Evans** - The Minister for Foreign Affairs has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) The Government understands that the Australian Chamber of Commerce has been exploring the feasibility of establishing a body to enhance commercial relations between Australia and the Province of Taiwan. Australia recognises the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China, and acknowledges the position of the Chinese Government that Taiwan is a province of China.

(2) The arrangements establishing diplomatic relations between Australia and China in December 1972 preclude any possibility of the Australian Government establishing a trade office or any official presence in the Province of Taiwan. However, this does not preclude private organisations from doing business with the Province of Taiwan or establishing trade promotion bodies to enhance commercial relations between Australia and Taiwan.

(3) The importance the Government attaches to Australia's trade and diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was clearly underlined during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the People's Republic. An increase in normal commercial ties with the Province of Taiwan should not in our view adversely affect these important links.