

Comment by Michael C H Jones
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This is my first comment post the September 2013 Australian Federal Election and the coming of the Age of Abbott - likely to be about three terms or approaching a decade given the shemozzle of the ALP pre and post Kevin Rudd's election as Prime Minister in November 2007. Abbott is doing fine turning back the boats if the Indonesians let him, ending the Debt if the ALP lets it grow to \$500 billion, and abolishing the carbon tax if no household gets a 9% energy cost rebate.

The Anglo-sphere of the '5-Eyes' is alive and well re US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand as referenced in Abbott's few paragraphs on Foreign Policy in his Battlelines book - the Australian Defence Signals/DSD is reported as allegedly not only spying from Australian Embassies on regional leaders but also on their wives' mobiles whose decisions on lingerie could have massive economic and security implications? No doubt the French and Italians are doing a roaring trade and Australian business wants the inside stories, just like the alleged resource briefings to BHP on Japanese companies.

Of course all information goes back to the US anyway, and that is why we need a greater involvement in Asian affairs by the EU so the UK has a diversity of markets in trading confidential business intelligence - the Germans pay top dollar especially since Angela Merkel's mobile phone, she being a woman, is also monitored. But don't worry the Chinese are getting better every year whilst the Russians and Israelis are no slouches. After all you do not need so many boots on the ground these days, just electronic eavesdropping and armed drones will do the trick.

Our man Tony has to get real on foreign and trade policy - Alexander Downer could sing, can Big Julie? Give her lessons and then an extended swing/research tour through Indauspac, she is much more energetic than Smith, Rudd and Carr, and lets face it Trade Minister Robb will be susceptible to dutchess-ing in Japan, South Korea, China and India. We need a gal with class, brains and a hoojaa who can match it with those rising African, Asian and South Americans. Hilliary, Julia and even Angela ran out of steam and sagged. Tony cannot do it all himself.

So bring on the EU to keep the US honest, soft-power to hard-power, the mental against the physical, gentle enticement over brute testosterone. Talk up the Indians over the Chinese and invite them all to a knees up in Singapore - invite Silvio Berlusconi as the Guest Celebrity. I can visualise it well - Big Julie Bishop and Tony the Man leading the Bunga Bunga Parties at the UN Security Council and/or the G-20. Bare-topped young men and women in the latest fashionable 5-inch heels prancing to the latest Anglo-sphere intelligence and the musical hit that went feral around the world: Stop the Boats, End the Debt, Abolish the Tax.