MEDIA RELEASE

5 December 2006

Australia in World Affairs

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) is proud to announce the launch of Trading on Alliance Security – the latest book in its ongoing series Australia in World Affairs. Starting in 1950, the series provides a definitive record of Australian foreign policy.

The current edition has been prepared by James Cotton, Professor of Politics at the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy, and John Ravenhill, Professor in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University. Authors include some of Australia’s leading foreign policy commentators, including Hugh White, Michael Wesley, and Anthony Bubalo.

Trading on Alliance Security charts the Howard government’s response to a particularly demanding external environment from 2001 to 2005, in an era when foreign policy issues had a significant impact on domestic electoral politics: instability in the Pacific, the rise of China, preferential trade agreements, an altered security agenda and new global regimes.

This key text provides timely and comprehensive coverage of Australia’s relations with the world, including China, Japan, Southeast Asia, the South Pacific states, Europe, the Middle East and especially the United States. It also contains chapters on terrorism, the global economy, environment, human rights and intelligence.

The Canberra Times praises the book as “an unambiguous triumph of Australian scholarship and research.” In the words of the publisher of The Diplomat magazine, the book “is fantastic: a ripper of a read; riveting from beginning to end.”

To commemorate the important historical series, the Australian Institute of International Affairs is also launching a CD-ROM covering Australia in World Affairs from 1950 to 2000. Nine volumes of 3,500 pages are now available in searchable pdf format, providing an invaluable resource for those interested in Australia’s turbulent foreign policy between 1950 and 2000.

The book and the CD-ROM are available from the Australian Institute of International Affairs, good bookstores, and from Oxford University Press. The recommended retail price is A$69.95 both for the book and CD-ROM. Substantial discounts apply for AIIA members and book and CD-ROM packages. For further information, contact Philipp Frener on 04 0551 0730 or intern1@aiia.asn.au.

Background information

The Australian Institute of International Affairs was established in 1933 as an independent non-political body to promote interest in and understanding of international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with 1500 members across seven state and territory branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, educates, and disseminates ideas via its journal Australian Journal of International Affairs and its book series Australia in World Affairs. The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC is the AIIA’s honorary visitor.