Dear friends ... I have just returned from Canberra to be with the Aboriginal People celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of Tent Embassy. I heard Barbara Shaw speak out about the Intervention. And there are many other Aboriginal leaders calling for this obscene land grab to be stopped.

It must be stopped ... it is a stark reminder to us that Whitefella Way is not the walk for Aboriginal people. There are many Aboriginal groups very adequately addressing the disadvantage that has been imposed on them in the last 200 years; they are the ones best qualified to help any communities which are struggling. They don't need land- and money-grabbing whitefellas to intervene in the guise of "closing the gap" policies.

It does not matter how much we "Close the Gap" if we continue to ignore the sovereign rights of the First Nations of this country, and their calls for self-determination. The reaction of the government to the 40th Anniversary of the Tent Embassy is typical of, and congruent with, the practice of the past 224 years ... namely refusal to acknowledge, and respect the sovereignty of the First Nations, and act accordingly under international law. The NT Intervention is a flagrant repudiation of the Law, and must be stopped.

There is far too much such flagrant flouting of the Law in to so-called democratic West ... wars of intervention, covert and otherewise ... and this intervention in the NT must be stopped, and its extension to other areas must not be allowed.

I hope that you will stop and listen. Don't spend too much time on Julia's slipper, or the partisan bickerings and point-scoring between her and Tony !! Please concentrate on the main plot ... empoweriing of the First Nations to address the problems with which have loaded them. And stop the Intervention.

With best wishes for a Happier Parliamentary Year ... Roger Keyes