The Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, has angered and offended the Japanese. Whatever way you look at it Mr Rudd has snubbed the Japanese by not including Japan in his 17-day world wide tour.

The Prime Minister should pick up the phone to his Japanese counterpart, Mr Fukuda, as the Coalition has been suggesting for three months, and he should re-jig his itinerary for his proposed trip around the world to include Japan, our closest friend in Asia.

The problem is the Prime Minister, by ignoring Japan and including four days in China, has given offence to an ally and major trading partner.

This comes on the back of one of the first actions of the Rudd Government; to send a gun boat in surveillance of a Japanese whaling vessel.

The failure of Mr Rudd to pick up the phone to Mr Fukuda to explain our concerns was bad diplomacy and has damaged Australia's case against whaling.

The other area of concern is around the Rudd Government's decision to abandon the quadrilateral talks with the US, India and Japan - and the decision of the Foreign Minister, Mr Smith, to announce this abandonment at a press conference with the Chinese Foreign Minister after Mr Smith failed to raise it in talks in his earlier trip to Japan.