



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**THE SENATE**

**MOTIONS**

**Influence of Foreign Agents**

**SPEECH**

**Wednesday, 14 June 2017**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

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## SPEECH

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 14 June 2017	<b>Source</b>	Senate
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<b>Questioner</b>		<b>Responder</b>	
<b>Speaker</b>	Bernardi, Sen Cory	<b>Question No.</b>	

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**Senator BERNARDI** (South Australia) (16:20): I move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes reports, arising from a joint investigation by the ABC *Four Corners* program and Fairfax Media, broadcast on 5 June 2017 regarding the increasing influence of the People's Republic of China in Australia's political system and within academia; and

(b) calls on the Prime Minister to request His Excellency the Governor-General issue Letters Patent to establish a royal commission into the following:

(i) the influence of foreign agents in offering direct or indirect benefits to politicians, political parties, governments and academia with a view to influencing decisions or other actions by those recipients to be in accord with the view of foreign governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party, and

(ii) possible reforms to preserve the sovereignty, transparency and integrity of Australian democracy.