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To: Morning Sydney <letters@smh.com.au>

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Subject: No choice

Daniel Flitton's article about Australians not wishing to back the US or Japan (January 6, Page 9) is interesting, but misses a crucial point made very clearly by no less a figure than ex-PM Malcolm Fraser in *Dangerous Allies*.

In the unhappy event of actual hostilities breaking out between Japan and China over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands, there would be no possibility of Australians making any choice about where they stand.

Australia is deeply enmeshed with the US, militarily - to the extent that we have US marines routinely stationed on our territory and host sophisticated communications systems upon which US dominance is dependent. Meanwhile, the US has openly expressed its support for Japan. If hostilities do break out, Australian facilities will be used by the US in its support for Japan. Our commitment to the US is absolute, so Australia will automatically become the enemy of China and a potential target. We will not have the luxury of making a choice.

Sadly, what the people want and think is already irrelevant in this scenario. The situation is extremely serious.

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