

## **LETTERS**

### **The 2016 Sir Hermann Black lecture: the year in review**

I have just read the 2016 Sir Hermann Black lecture [*United Service* 68 (1), 9 – 13 (March 2017)]. It is a remarkably comprehensive yet concise summing up of the world's geopolitical and security situation at the end of 2016, which three months into 2017 remains at a pivotal crossroads.

The paper, however, made only a passing comment on North Korea, whose belligerent leader seems to be intent on becoming an unpredictable threat with a nuclear capability to attack Australia. That might seem irrational, but Kim Jong-un might think such a strike on Australia to be an easy way to poke a stick at the United States. The question as to whether we should implement our own anti-missile defence in Australia, as South Korea is doing, now warrants serious consideration. Certainly, we should have contingency plans on how we could do that, and how quickly it could be done – and the Government ought to be talking about such contingency planning, so that the general public are aware of such concerns and necessary measures.

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Wollstonecraft, 5 April 2017