

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Answers to questions on notice from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Budget estimates 2003–2004; 2–3 June 2003

Question 16

Topic: SIEV–X

Outcome 1, output 1.1.7

Hansard page 13

Senator Collins asked:

With reference to a brief that went to the Prime Minister, through PM&C, on 24 October 2001 in relation to the location of the sinking of the SIEV–X, what, if any, information did the Department provide that might have led to the conclusion in that brief, that the boat sank in Indonesian waters?

Answer:

The Department did not provide information which might have led to the conclusion that the SIEV–X sank in Indonesian waters.

Question 17

Topic: People smuggling

Outcome 1, output 1.1.7

Hansard page 76

Senator Faulkner asked:

- (1) Does the interagency people–smuggling group still meet regularly in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta?
- (2) If so, how often does it meet? If it no longer meets, when was the group wound up and why?
- (3) Who attended the group’s meeting at 8am on 13 June 2001? Which agency or department was each participant from? Were contemporaneous notes taken on that occasion? Were there any file notes or other notes recorded after the meeting?
- (4) Did anyone from the embassy accompany Mr Ruddock, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, on his program of other meetings on 13 June 2001?
- (5) If so, were contemporaneous notes or other records taken of the meetings?

Answer:

(1) Yes.

(2) The group meets once a week and more often if required.

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(3) To best of our knowledge those present were:

Ambassador Ric Smith (DFAT)
Deputy Head of Mission Les Rowe (DFAT)
Counsellor (Immigration) Jose Alvarez (DIMIA)
Navy Attaché Captain David Ramsay (Defence)
AFP Liaison, Leigh Dixon (AFP)
AFP Liaison, Glen McEwen (AFP)
Counsellor, Greg Moriarty (DFAT)
Counsellor, Tony Sheehan (DFAT)
The Hon Philip Ruddock, Minister for Immigration
Adviser to the Hon Philip Ruddock, Minister for Immigration

To the best of our knowledge, contemporaneous notes were not taken on that occasion. There were no file notes or other notes recorded after the meeting.

(4) Yes.

(5) Records were taken during key Ministerial meetings and incorporated into an official, classified report on the Minister's visit to Jakarta.

Question 18

Topic: Terrorist organisations

Outcome 1, output 1.1.7

Hansard page 109

Senator Ray asked:

- (1) What steps is the Australian delegation at the UN taking to pursue the listing of Hezbollah as a proscribed organisation? What steps would a member state of the UN take if they wanted to pursue such a course of action?
- (2) Would the department explain the objectives and workings of UN resolutions 1267, 1333 and 1373?
- (3) When was Hezbollah listed by Australia, in fulfilment of our obligations under Security Council resolution 1373?

Answer:

- (1) Australia has not pursued a listing of Hezbollah by the Committee established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 ("the 1267 Committee"). If a member state of the UN wanted to pursue a listing of Hezbollah by the 1267 Committee, it would make a written submission, through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, to the 1267 Committee outlining the basis on which Hezbollah meets the necessary criteria for listing provided for in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1267 (if the basis of listing relates to the Taliban) or 1333 (if the basis of listing relates to Al Qaida). The 1267 Committee (which comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes