Questions on Notice

Response to JSCOT public hearing on 9 September 2003

Reference: **Inquiry into the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and the Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS)**

1. What immigration information does the Australian Government require from foreign crew?

Under current immigration arrangements, members of the crew of foreign non-military ships may be immigration cleared on their seafarer identity document. New immigration arrangements from 1 November 2003 will require members of the crew of non-military ships that intend to enter Australia as part of their working voyage to carry a valid passport in addition to an identity document for immigration clearance. The identity document must identify the holder and confirm that the member of the crew is a seafarer employed on a vessel for that purpose. An identity document could include a document issued to a member of the crew, such as a Sea Service Record Book or Discharge Book.

2. Does the US Administration permit foreign flagged vessels to ply their coasts?

Generally, the US does not allow non-US flagged vessels to carry cargo on domestic voyages along its coastlines, although for economic reasons it does allow non-US flagged vessels to operate in specific industries, such as cruise shipping.

Additional material

In addition to our answer supplied previously for the question below, the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) informed us of the following new requirements:

3. Which legislation stipulates the kind of pre-arrival information foreign ships need to provide for immigration purposes?

Division 12B of the *Migration Act* will require international passenger cruise ship operators to report on passengers and crew using approved primary reporting systems. Primary reporting systems are approved under section 245J of the Migration Act. From 1 January 2004, Advance Passenger Processing (APP) is the approved reporting system for pre-arrival information for sea passengers and crew.