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Secretary: <i>M. Swieringa</i>

Ms Swieringa

Attached is DFAT's response to your QON of 2 February relating to the Parliamentary Joint Committee's hearing of 1 February.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

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(See attached file: 050210 PJC QON response.doc)

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON ASIO, ASIS AND DSD

Following the hearing of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD on 1 February 2005, the Committee asked if the written views of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, conveyed by e-mail to the Attorney-General's Department in August and October 2004, on proposals for re-listing of six groups as 'terrorist organisations' under the *Criminal Code Act*, could be made available to the committee.

The response to the question is as follows:

In response to the Attorney-General's Department request for comment on the proposed renewal of the regulations listing Al Qa'ida and Jemaah Islamiyah as terrorist organisations under the *Criminal Code Act*, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided email advice that it regarded it as imperative from a foreign policy and international security perspective that those two listings be extended.

In response to the Attorney-General's Department request for comment on the proposed renewal of the regulations listing Harakat UI-Mujahideen as a terrorist organisation under the *Criminal Code Act*, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided email advice which noted that the group had operated under names other than Harakat UI-Mujahideen (several aliases were noted in the ASIO statement of reasons for the proposed listing) and expressed support for re-listing.

In response to the Attorney-General's Department request for comment on the proposed renewal of the regulations listing the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) as a terrorist organisation under the *Criminal Code Act*, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided email advice which noted that the ASG continued to engage in terrorist-related activities in the Philippines and the region and that accordingly the ASG should remain listed as a terrorist organisation.

In response to the Attorney-General's Department request for comment on the proposed renewal of the regulations listing the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC) as terrorist organisations under the *Criminal Code Act*, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided email advice which noted estimates of the relative strengths of both organisations and the relationship between them.