



Submission No 114

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Organisation: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Inquiry into Australia's relations with Indonesia

Question 23

Written question

- (1) Could the department provide information about the cancellation of a visit of 10 Kopassus officers to the Australian SAS regiment in Swanbourne, WA, as reported in the media?
- (2) Does the Government really think Australia can in practice choose between good Kopassus and bad Kopassus?
- (3) Might it not have been better for Australia to have maintained the policy of no exercise with Kopassus and concentrated all anti-terrorist efforts with Indonesia through the Indonesian police?

Answer:

- (1) The decision to cancel a recent planned visit to Australia by Kopassus officers, including the Commander, Major General Sriyanto, was taken by both Australia and Indonesia in a cooperative spirit.
- (2) The Government is committed to limiting our cooperation to exclude those people we know have been involved in serious human rights abuses.
- (3) The Government has been very clear about the objectives of our policy on cooperation with Kopassus: in the immediate term the Indonesian Special Forces have by far the most effective capability to recover hostages and resolve a hijacking situation. The Government continues to co-operate closely with other Indonesian law enforcement agencies in counter-terrorism, including the Indonesian Police.

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Question 22

Written question

Could the department provide a chart of support out of the Middle East for the education system in Indonesia?

Answer:

There are no Indonesian statistics available on support from the Middle East for the education system in Indonesia.

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Question 21

Written question

Does the department have a profile of Saudi or Gulf state investment in the Indonesian education system?

Answer:

No. Indonesian investment statistics reflect only commercial links. Saudi Arabia was Indonesia's 40th biggest investor (in terms of FDI approvals) in 2002. Total Gulf state investment was US\$1.2 million of a total US\$9795.4 million in approvals. By comparison, Australian approvals were US\$232.2 million.