



Submission No 94

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Organisation: Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology

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In reply please quote

30/4145

**Ms Janet Holmes
Secretary
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Dear Ms Holmes

BUILDING AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA

In reply to your letter of 24 March 2003, we have marked our suggested corrections in red on the attached draft transcript.

Mr Beazley (re page 76) put a Question On Notice requesting the Bureau of Meteorology to provide an estimate "on where the Indonesian shortfall is, how much it would cost to fill that in and what sorts of technical capabilities there may be". Our response is as follows:

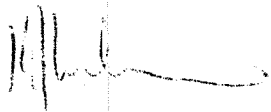
"The Indonesian Badan Meteorologi dan Geofisika (BMG) is relying on both national and external resources to upgrade its infrastructure and modernise its facilities. It has a national meteorological development plan that has, over the years, attracted support by the Indonesian Government, funding or technical cooperation agencies, AusAID, and to a smaller extent, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology through our Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in meteorology signed in 1995.

Recently, BMG is attempting to seek support by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for a major re-equipment of its meteorological and seismological infrastructure. The scope of the upgrade is indicative of the technological needs of the BMG. This involves major investment in meteorological equipment and training in areas including satellite reception, weather watch radars, computing and communications, specialised meteorological work stations, upper-air sounding systems (i.e. weather balloons and radiosonde systems), automatic weather stations, seismic equipment, and so on.

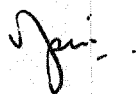
Some rough cost estimates to meet their current shortfall are as follows:

- Meteorological observations – surface, upper-air, and space-based observations; weather radars; training aspects - A\$40M**
- Communication and computing – supercomputer, mid-range computing system, mass storage, computer centre, integrated forecast workstation, communication hardware, software, training aspects – A\$70M**

- **Manpower development, education and training facilities, research – A\$70M**
- **Meteorological applications (such as climate prediction) – A\$20M”**



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