



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

**Security and Critical
Infrastructure Division**

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Supplementary Submission 10.3
TT 11 October 2005

Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

BY FACSIMILE: 6277 2219

Dear Dr Southcott

Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection

I refer to the Committee's hearing of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (the Convention) held on Monday, 27 February 2006.

I note during the hearing I took a question on notice from the Chair as follows:

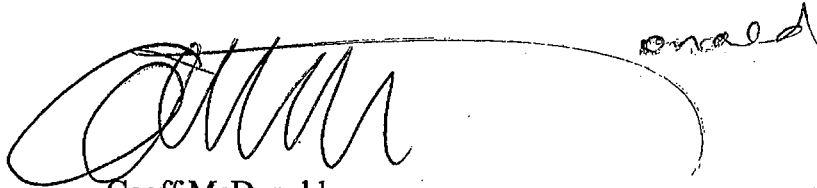
Was it ever the intention of the treaty that the odorant would be to find the explosive or is the odorant to identify where the explosive has come from?

The intention of the Convention was to require a chemical detection agent to be incorporated into the plastic explosive in order to identify the presence of a plastic explosive, not to be able identify the source of the manufacture of the plastic explosive.

Switzerland is the only major industrial country which incorporates identification taggants into all explosives which may lead, post blast, to identification of a manufacturer and the approximate date of manufacture.

Should the Committee wish to discuss this matter, please contact Annabel Knott who can be contacted on 6250 5423.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to be 'G. McDonald'.

Geoff McDonald
Assistant Secretary
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