



Submission No 98

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Organisation: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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**FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND
TRADE**

Public Diplomacy, Consular and
Passports Division

17 June 2003

Ms Janet Holmes
Secretary
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee
JSCFADT
Suite R-1-120
Parliament House
Canberra



Dear Ms Holmes

With reference to the Sub-Committee's inquiry into Australia's relations with Indonesia, I enclose answers to the questions taken on notice as part of this department's appearance before the Sub-Committee. I have also sent the answers electronically for your convenience.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Foksett
Parliamentary Liaison Section

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 1

Topic: Human rights training

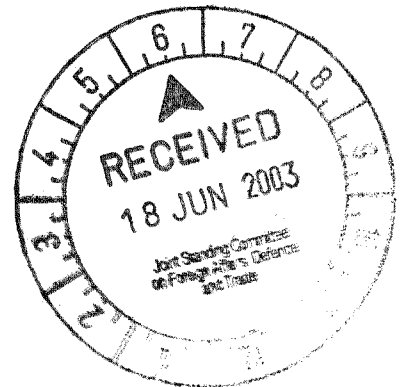
Hansard page 202

Mr Price asked:

- (1) Has the department looked at the scope of the human rights training offered at professional development courses run by the Department of Defence?
- (2) Has the department made any representations to the Department of Defence about increasing or decreasing the level of human rights training?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The department has indicated to the Department of Defence that it considers human rights training should be a component of overall training assistance.



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 2

Topic: Visa charges

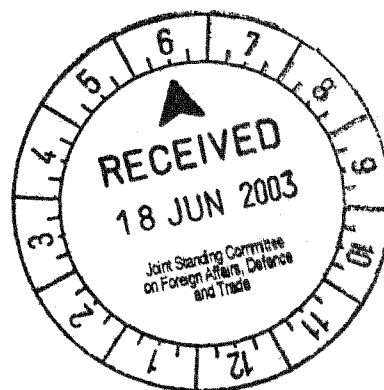
Hansard page 204

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

What is the government's response to the proposal by Indonesia to introduce in September a visa for foreign tourists?

Answer:

It is up to each country to determine its own visa regime. Visa-free entry to Indonesia has been revoked for nationals of most non-ASEAN countries.



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 3

Topic: UN Security Council

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Senator Stott Despoja asked:

Given the comments by the Prime Minister on 30 April 2003 in relation to a place for Indonesia on the Security Council, what dialogue has occurred or what role will Australia be playing?

Answer:

Australia has been actively engaged in discussion of United Nations Security Council reform, and in regular consultation with a range of other nations on this issue, over a number of years. The Prime Minister's comments focussed on our long-standing concern that such reform should result in a better representation of prominent and influential countries, from all regions, best able to contribute to international peace and security. As the Prime Minister has indicated, the question of how Australia seeks to promote reform in line with its concerns is a matter for continuing discussion by the government and with fellow members of the United Nations.



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 4

Topic: Act of Free Choice for West Papuans

Written question

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

- (1) Is it the department's understanding that Article 18 of the 1962 New York Agreement, signed by the Netherlands and Indonesia, provided that all adult West Papuans were to be given the opportunity to participate in the act of self-determination, to be carried out in accordance with international practice?
- (2) Does the department acknowledge that Indonesia did not give all adult West Papuans this opportunity in relation to the Act of Free Choice?
- (3) Does the department consider that Indonesia's conduct in the months leading up to the Act of Free Choice contravened Article 22 of the New York Agreement, which required it to "guarantee fully the rights, including the rights of free speech, freedom of movement and of assembly, of the inhabitants of the area"?
- (4) Given that Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, and that this will must be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures, does the department consider that there is merit in the argument that there is a need to review the Act of Free Choice as a basis for Indonesian sovereignty in West Papua?

Answers:

- (1) The United Nations decided in 1968 that the provisions of the 1962 New York Agreement relating to self determination "in accordance with international practice" were impossible to implement at the time. Instead the UN agreed to a process whereby Consultative Assemblies would reach a collective decision on whether or not to remain with Indonesia. The Australian Government recognised the validity of the UN process and continues to do so.
- (2) See answer to (1) above.
- (3) See answer to (1) above.
- (4) No.



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 5

Topic: West Papua

Written question

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

A number of witnesses who have presented evidence to the Committee have referred to escalating tensions within West Papua, warning that there is a very real potential for West Papua to erupt into civil warfare, similar to that which occurred in East Timor prior to its gaining independence. What is the Government's assessment of this risk and what are the implications for Australia?

Answer:

The security situation in Papua has been relatively calm since the enactment of special autonomy legislation on 1 January 2002, although security incidents continue to occur. There is still a significant military presence in the province and a smaller but persistent guerrilla movement (Free Papua Movement – also commonly referred to as OPM). Any significant internal security problem in Indonesia has implications for regional security and hence for Australia's interests. The Australian Government supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia and the effective implementation of special autonomy in Papua.

