

**AMENDMENT TO THE STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE SUBMITTED
TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHANCERY BUILDING IN NEW DELHI, INDIA**

In the Department's Statement of Evidence dated June 2003, the site plan indicates that the new Chancery building will be set back approximately 15 metres from the Northern boundary wall of the compound perimeter. DFAT has undertaken a review of the security of the project in the light of recent world events and in consideration of the increased threat to Australian Diplomatic missions, highlighted by the Prime Minister in his remarks in July at the opening of the new Chancery in Manila. As a result of this review, DFAT has decided to introduce further measures to improve the long term security of the new Chancery against possible terrorist attack. These measures include relocating the new Chancery to provide an additional 10 metres of setback from the Northern boundary wall. The proposed location for the new Chancery is indicated on the revised site plan and the full impact of this revised siting will be further examined during the design development phase of the project.

The decision to relocate the Chancery was based on advice from a leading Australian expert on the design of blast resistant structures who undertook a detailed study of the possible effects of a bomb attack on the Chancery and measures to reduce the potential damage.