

2003/41028

**Ms Vivienne Courto**  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Public Works  
Suite R1 119  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Courto

**REFURBISHMENT OF STAFF APARTMENTS, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
COMPLEX, PARIS, FRANCE**

1. Thank you for your letter of 25 July 2003 to the Secretary, Department of Defence. Mr Smith has asked that I respond on his behalf.
2. Defence's desk officer for overseas leases visited the Paris complex last July and reported that the apartments were well below standard and in desperate need of refurbishment. Subsequently, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has adopted an 'all of Government' approach to the refurbishment project. Indeed, Defence was able to assist DFAT by offering up an apartment for use as the prototype by which other Agencies could gauge the overall effectiveness of the refurbishment.
3. Defence has been in close liaison and consultation with DFAT and continues to support the project and has agreed in principle to meet its portion of the fitout costs.
4. My point of contact on overseas accommodation matters is Mr Barry Millar, telephone 6266 2503.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF DAVIS**  
Assistant Secretary General Services

Tel: (02) 6266 2852

6 August 2003

cc Mr Cos Cameron