

Tabled Document No 1

By: Minister for Finance and Administration,
Senator the Hon Nick Minchin
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The Government has directed that officials appearing before Senate Legislation Committees should not answer questions directed to them on matters before the Commission of Inquiry being conducted by the Hon Terence Cole into certain Australian companies in relation to the Oil-for-Food Programme.

While examination of officials by the Committees might be appropriate in the future, the Government considers that Mr Cole should be able to proceed with his Inquiry and present his findings without parallel public questioning that would not assist consideration of complex issues.