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1 June 2005

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Secretary  
Senate Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Defence and Trade  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to clarify evidence that I gave at the Senate Legislation Committee hearing on 30 May 2005.

In answer to questions from Senator Faulkner (pages 110 and 114 of *Proof Hansard 30 May 2005*), I undertook to confirm or clarify – as appropriate – my evidence regarding Defence's correspondence last year with the US Embassy in relation to certain detainee matters. I have now checked the relevant files and consulted with relevant colleagues. I can now confirm:

1. There has been no other Defence correspondence with the US Embassy on matters connected with the Iraq detainee fact finding research conducted in June 2004.
2. There has been no further correspondence with the US Embassy on the two matters outlined respectively by the Secretary and me in our letters, sent respectively in June and July 2004.
3. In relation to the Secretary's June 2004 letter (which dealt with the matters raised by Mr Barton), I can confirm that there have been several discussions with US Government officials since I last gave evidence to the Committee on 16 February this year, including with respect to the US investigation into the death of Dr Azmurli. US officials communicated advice in confidence during the course of these discussions.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

Michael Pezzullo  
Chief of Staff Australian Defence Headquarters  
Head Coordination and Public Affairs Division

Copies: Minister, Secretary, CDF