

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 2002-2003, 10-11 February 2003

Question: PM15

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: The decision to pre-deploy ADF assets.

Hansard Page: F&PA 58

Senator Faulker asked: "Do you not get a copy of the records of decisions?"

Answer: PM&C does not receive copies of any minutes from the DFAT Iraq Task Force. PM&C is not aware of any formal minutes being produced or circulated from this meeting, but PM&C receives copies of the regular situation reports prepared by the Task Force which reflect developments discussed at Task Force meetings.

Question: PM16

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: The decision to pre-deploy ADF assets.

Hansard Page: F&PA 58

Senator Faulkner asked: When did the officials of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet who are on the three task forces that have been reported become aware of that pre-deployment?

Answer: PM&C officials became aware of the government's decisions to pre-deploy ADF equipment and personnel to the Middle East after they were made following the National Security Committee of Cabinet meeting on 10 January 2003.