

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2009

Question: PM8a

Outcome 1, Output 3

Topic: PM meetings with heads of missions

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April

Senator Fifield asked: -Minister, you may direct this question where it should go. Senator Minchin had questions on notice about meetings which the Prime Minister had with heads of missions. The answer to question 575 was that, as of 27 August 2008, the Prime Minister had met six heads of mission in Australia. The Prime Minister had met one head of mission on four occasions and the other five heads of mission on one occasion each. It went on to note that obviously the Prime Minister did have occasion to bump into heads of mission at various functions. I want to follow up on those answers. Which head of mission did the Prime Minister meet with on four occasions?

Mr Mrdak-I am not sure I can do that readily. If you do not mind I will try to chase that up quickly and come back to you before the end of the day-if I can.

Answer: The Prime Minister regularly meets heads of mission at diplomatic and other functions in Canberra and elsewhere. Heads of mission also attend meetings involving the Prime Minister and visiting foreign dignitaries. During the nominated nine month period to 27 August 2008 the Prime Minister met the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on four occasions.