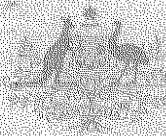
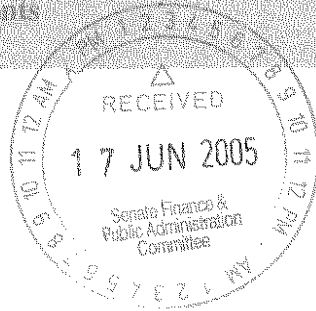


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Australian Government
Office of National Assessments
Director-General



File No.92/0025

10 June 2005

Mr Alastair Sands
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament house
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Alastair

Questions of Notice – Committee Hearings

At the Committee Hearings on 24 May 2005 Senator Faulkner asked a series of questions on notice about Iraqi casualties, and a consultancy agreement ONA has with Dr John Gee. I advise as follows :

PM5²

Disaggregation of figures relating to Iraqi ISF casualties

- I undertook to see whether figures I gave the committee on estimates of casualties suffered by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) distinguished between police and military casualties. You will recall that the sources of these estimates were the Brookings Institution, the US website Iraq Coalition Casualty Count (ICCC) and Iraqi government ministries.
- Inquiries indicate that estimates by the Brookings Institution and ICCC list total ISF casualties and do not disaggregate military and police personnel.
- As I noted at the hearing, the Iraqi interior and defence ministries have recently started reporting numbers of ISF deaths. These distinguish between military and police personnel. The defence ministry's figures for Iraqi military deaths in April and May were 40 and 85 respectively. The interior ministry's figures for police deaths in the same months were 86 and 151 respectively

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PM52/53 / 54

Dates relating to Dr Gee's consultancy agreement with ONA

- Dr Gee's first consultancy with ONA covered the period 7 October 2003 until 9 January 2004. He was re-engaged on a 12 months contract commencing 20 April 2004. A further 12 months contract was negotiated effective from 20 April 2005.

PM54⁵

The date Dr Gee discussed with me about appearing before the Senate Foreign Affairs and Defence References Committee

- Dr Gee raised this issue on his own initiative with me on 2 May 2005.

PM55⁶


Did Dr Gee have contact with any other ONA staff member about the matter?

- Dr Gee also discussed the matter with his Branch Head supervisor.

PM56⁷

The name of the PM&C SES Officer Dr Gee spoke with about obligations on someone on a Public Service contract vis-à-vis parliamentary committees

- Dr Gee spoke with Ms B Belcher, First Assistant Secretary, Government Division, PM&C.

Yours sincerely


Peter N Varghese