

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 22-23 May 2006

Question: PM 8

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: UN Oil-For-Food Programme investigation

Hansard Page: F&PA 91-92:

Senator Faulkner asked: I do not know who wrote the answer to the question on notice. Whoever it is, I am not actually abusing them. But you would appreciate, I am sure, Senator Minchin—because you are so careful in the words you use yourself—that the words ‘no record of any involvement’, which has now been redefined to ‘no record of any role’ by the witness at the table, is still unclear. I am trying to find out whether there was an awareness or record that the department had in relation to the meeting—not the involvement of or a role for Prime Minister and Cabinet, but an awareness or a record, which is a very different question. Every time I ask this question, it is redefined in a different way.

Dr Morauta—I think that can be taken on notice. It is a different question from the one we answered. We accept that. We will take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has no record or awareness of any meeting or discussion between the Prime Minister and Ambassador Thawley on the subject of the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations inquiry into the UN Oil-For-Food Programme.