

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 9

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: UN Oil-For-Food Programme investigation

Hansard Page: F&PA 92-93:

Senator Faulkner asked: We know that the ambassador and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade tried to shut down the US Senate inquiry. I want to know whether that was in accordance with PM&C guidance. We have got two documents on the public record that point to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and possibly the Prime Minister himself being informed and providing guidance to Ambassador Thawley on that very matter. Can someone from the department help me on this?

Mr Lewis—I am unable to, Senator. I do not believe we have people here who can do that.

Dr Morauta—We can take the question on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has no record of guidance being provided to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Ambassador Thawley on the subject of the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations inquiry into the UN Oil-For-Food Programme.