



Australian Government
Office of National Assessments
Director General

21 December 2006

Mr Alistair Sands
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

Dear Alistair

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislative Committee
Questions on Notice – Estimates 2006-07 Supplementary Budget Estimates,
October 2006

In response to Senator Faulkner's and Senator Evans's questions from the October Committee Hearings, I advise as follows:

PM 27 (F&PA Hansard p112)

Are you able to say when the round table with Dr J Gee occurred?

ONA response -18 March 2004.

F&PA Hansard p112

Was any reporting done of the round table?

ONA response – There was no formal record of the meeting. Since June 2004 ONA practice has been to record key issues covered at meetings with visitors to ONA but not to keep detailed minutes of such meetings, unless they are formal inter-agency meetings.

F&PA Hansard p117

Mr John Quinn - Who did he meet with? What specifically was discussed? Have you got any record of that?

ONA response – A meeting between Mr Quinn and relevant ONA staff was held on 12 August 2004. The scope of the meeting covered the Iraq situation, including WMD.

PM 28 (F&PA Hansard p121)

Does that just go to ONA or does it go to PM&C and DFAT?

PO Box 6310, Kingston ACT 2604
Australia
Telephone +61 2 6266 0944 Facsimile +61 2 6266 0980

ONA response – The report was also distributed to DFAT and PM&C.

PM 29 (F&PA Hansard p122)

Has ONA received other estimates from the US on Iraq?

ONA response - Yes but I am not in a position to go into the details or subject matter of classified intelligence material received from the US or other intelligence partners.

F&PA Hansard p 122

Do you know how broadly the estimate was distributed in terms of the coalition of the willing partners?

ONA response – No

F&PA Hansard p123

When was the last national assessment done on Iraq?

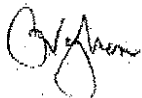
ONA response – 4 July 2005. National Assessments typically look forward anything from 5-20 years and so it would be very rare for the same subject to be revisited frequently. ONA does however produce regular reports on Iraq. In this calendar year there have been 23 ONA reports on Iraq including four strategic assessments. ONA has produced 167 reports on Iraq since military action was commenced against the Sadaam regime in March 2003.

F&PA Hansard p124

When was the last national assessment on East Timor?

ONA response – 7 July 2006

Yours sincerely



Peter N Varghese