

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: Vietnam Veterans Day

Senator: Senator Ronaldson

Question reference number: 62

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Was the department involved in preparing a speech, which the Prime Minister gave on 18 August 2011 this year at the Vietnam Veteran's day commemoration?
2. In the speech Ms Gillard said "The chief actors - John Kennedy, Robert McNamara, Ho Chi Minh, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Bob Menzies, William Westmoreland, General Giap - are all gone." - is the department aware that General Giap is still alive?
3. Nobody in the Prime Minister's office picked up on the mistake, did they? The Prime Minister did not pick up on the mistake?
4. What steps or procedures have been put in place to ensure that the Prime Minister does not give a speech which claims that someone is dead when they are in fact still alive?

Answer:

1. No.
2. Yes.
3. No.
4. There is an ongoing commitment to include accurate information in prepared speaking material.