SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 79

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:

a) Was the AFP provided with information from any intelligence authority (either inside or outside of Australia) about the alleged rendition of Mr Habib?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The AFP was present during a meeting in Pakistan on 22 October 2001 when US authorities discussed the possibility of deporting Mr Habib from Pakistan to Egypt, on the basis that Egypt is his country of birth. The AFP representative at this meeting strongly expressed his view that Mr Habib is an Australian citizen, and should be dealt with accordingly.

The AFP was subsequently advised by the Australian Head of Mission in Pakistan on 19 November 2001 that he understood that Mr Habib had been transferred to his country of birth.