

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 120

1) I refer to an article in the *Sunday Telegraph* of 23 March 2008 by Glenn Milne with the title *Secret union deals*. Please provide details including:

- Does the Department or any minister within the Attorney General's portfolio have a copy of the confidential union strategy document. If so, please provide a copy.
- Did the department provide any information to the MUA or any other union of the nature alleged in the article and in particular, regarding "scabs and parasites" crewing non-union ships?
- If so, what was the nature and extent of the information provided? Who provided the information? When was it provided? To whom was it specifically provided?
- What other discussions may have occurred between the MUA or other union regarding "new industry arrangements" and in particular, "pattern bargaining"? Please provide details in relation to the same incl. the date of such discussions and the participants to the discussion.

Answer:

The Australian Customs Service (Customs) does not have a copy of the document referred to in the article, nor has it provided any information to the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) in relation to the issue discussed in the article. No discussions have taken place with the MUA or other union in relation to "new industry arrangements" or "pattern bargaining".