

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: MLT 01

Division/Agency: Maritime and Land Transport

Topic: Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic

Hansard Page: 73 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'Brien - I am told that the International Maritime Organisation's Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic contains a provision that says governments will not require visiting seafarers to hold visas. Are you aware of that?

Mr Kilner – I might pass to Mr Sutton to answer that.

Mr Sutton – I am not aware of that particular provision. We will certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

The Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic 1965 (the FAL Convention), as amended, contemplates the issue of visas to crew members, for example at sections 2.17 and 3.3.7 in the Annex to the convention. Section 3.45 in the Annex to the convention provides that crew members shall not be required to hold a visa for the purposes of shore leave.

Article VIII(1) of the FAL Convention provides that where a contracting Government finds it impracticable to comply with any Standard, or deems it necessary for special reasons to adopt formalities, documentary requirements or procedures differing from that Standard, then it should inform the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization of the differences between its own practice and the relevant Standard. The Migration Amendment (Maritime Crew) Bill currently before Parliament would create a new maritime crew visa. As indicated in the explanatory memorandum to the Bill, the change is intended to allow an appropriate level of security checking before the granting of a visa, which is not possible under current arrangements. This measure is a necessary enhancement to general maritime security. Once the measures come into operation, the Government will be notifying the International Maritime Organization of the particulars of the changes, as required by the Convention.

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Question: MLT 02

Division/Agency: Maritime and Land Transport

Topic: SIEV X – Location and Rescue of Survivors

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Milne asked:

Was your Department or any of its agencies informed that the location of the rescue of SIEVX survivors was reported to be 07 40 00S / 105 09 00E? If so, by whom was this information provided? On what date? Please provide copies of any file notes and other documents related to this information being provided to your Department or agency.

Answer:

No. Neither the Department nor AMSA have been able to identify any record of having been informed of the location of the rescue of SIEV X survivors.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question: MLT 03

Division/Agency: Maritime and Land Transport

Topic: SIEV X – Location and Rescue of Survivors

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Milne asked:

Was your Department or any of its agencies informed of an Indonesian Police Report dated 24 October 2001 which included the location of the rescue of SIEVX survivors – ie 07 40 00S / 105 09 00E? If so, by whom was this informed provided? On what date? Please provide copies of any file notes and other documents related to this information being provided to your Department or agency.

Answer:

No. Neither the Department nor AMSA have been able to identify any record of having been informed of an Indonesian Police Report dated 24 October 2001 which included the location of the SIEVX survivors.