



Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

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Office of the Director-General

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25 August 2003

Mr Brenton Holmes
Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
References Committee - Bali
Suite S1.57
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Brenton,

**Questions on Notice to ASIO -
Public Hearing Thursday, 19 June 2003**

Thank you for your letter of 1 July 2003 listing questions on notice resulting from my appearance before the Committee on 19 June 2003. The answers to those questions are as follows:

Could you provide the Committee with a time series table as to growth, if that is the case, in the number of threat assessments issued for Indonesia for each of the years 1997-98 up to 2002-03?

Our records of Threat Assessments produced are not broken down by region. However, the following table indicates the growth in Threat Assessments for Australian interests in Indonesia since 1999-00. The number of assessments produced in 1997-98 and 1998-99 would have been at similarly low numbers as per 1999-00.

Threat Assessments on:	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian interests in Indonesia but excluding East Timor	2	3	4	50
Australian interests in Southeast Asia which included specific reference to Indonesia	0	1	1	7
Australian interests globally which included a specific reference to Indonesia	1	3	9	9
Total	3	7	14	66

Could you provide the Committee with the numbers of ASIO officers now dedicated to terrorism and terrorist assessments in South East Asia and how that compares with numbers prior to September 11, 2001?

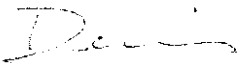
The number of ASIO officers now working on terrorism and terrorist assessments in Southeast Asia is approximately four times the number before 11 September 2001.

Could you advise the Committee whether there was a meeting between ASIO and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss the threat assessment that was made by ASIO dated 9 November 2001, and if so, what was the outcome of that meeting?

There was no specific one-on-one meeting between ASIO and DFAT to discuss the threat assessment issued on 9 November 2001. The statement made by bin Laden on 3 November 2001 and which was the subject of the 9 November Threat Assessment, however, was discussed at meetings of the Special Incident Task Force which were being held daily at that time.

Both ASIO and DFAT were represented at the Task Force meetings, at which ASIO provided briefings on the bin Laden statement.

Yours sincerely



Dennis Richardson
Director-General of Security