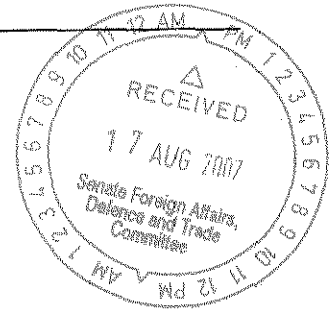




AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

Russell Offices, CANBERRA ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA



VCDF/OUT/2007/241

Dr Kathleen Dermody
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the 24 July 2007 hearing into Australia's Involvement in Peacekeeping.

The first amendment concerns peacekeeping operations that were not proceeded with. In answer to a question from Senator Trood (page 11 of *Proof Hansard* 24 July 2007), I stated that "The government has never decided not to be involved in an operation because we did not have the forces". This information was incorrect because the Government has never decided not to be involved in an operation solely because we did not have the forces.

The second and third amendments concern United Nations involvement in rules of engagement negotiations. In answer to a question from Senator Payne (page 14 of *Proof Hansard* 24 July 2007), I stated that "...giving your troops to the United Nations to be under United Nations command requires...". This information was incorrect because Australian troops are not placed under United Nations command, they are placed under the operational control of the assigned force commander. In answer to the same question from Senator Payne (page 14 of *Proof Hansard* 24 July 2007), I stated that "...with troops from several nations under your command...". This information was incorrect as troops would be under the operational authority of the assigned force commander.

The fourth amendment concerns the legal authority differences between the Solomon Islands and East Timor operations. In answer to a question from Senator Mark Bishop (page 26 of *Proof Hansard* 24 July 2007), I stated that "Yes. Unless I am missing the mark here, it is UN sanctioned under the chapter 8 article of subcontracting out to a regional organisation. If you like, there is UN Security Council cover for what we are doing, despite the fact that it is not a mandated mission under a...". This information is incorrect as the President of the United Nations Security Council released a press statement (SC/78530) on 26 August 2003 in which

the members of the Security Council warmly welcomed the collective action of the countries of the Pacific Islands Forum to support the people of the Solomon Islands in their quest for the restoration of law, order and stability. There is United Nations Security Council endorsement for what we are doing, despite the fact that it is not a United Nations mandated mission under a Security Council resolution.

The last amendment concerns legal authority deriving from UN sanction or from intervening powers. In answer to a question from Senator Mark Bishop (page 26 of *Proof Hansard* 24 July 2007), I stated that "The UN Security Council resolution that covers it certainly adds legal status to the process...". This information was incorrect. While the United Nations Security Council have endorsed the process it has not passed a resolution.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely,



K.J. GILLESPIE
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15 August 2007