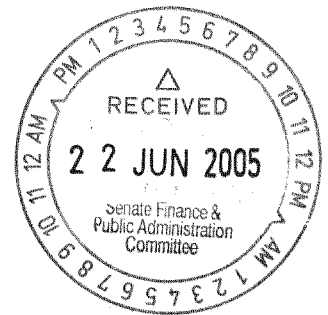




Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



22 June 2005

Mr Alistair Sands
Secretary
Australian Senate Finance and Public
Administration References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sands

You will recall that in the context of the public hearing of the Australian Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula, I undertook to provide advice on the means by which the Prime Minister was advised that work on the coast road would stop if any human remains were unearthed. This advice was provided in a cabled report from Ankara on the basis of assurances received from Turkish authorities.

Further, Senator Bishop had asked whether the Prime Minister's statement that it was inevitable that bones would be found was made on advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We have checked our records, and with the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, and can confirm that this statement was not made on advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Newman
First Assistant Secretary
Americas and Europe Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade