

1. What is the current state of intelligence concerning the boat allegedly carrying Vietnamese passengers which was said to be destined for Australia during June 2002? [p.29]

- The first reporting of the Vietnamese vessel appeared in Indonesian media on 23 May 2002. The media report stated that the claimed destination of the vessel was New Zealand.
- On 25 July 2002 the AFP received information that a motor vessel carrying 33 Vietnamese persons (25 males and 8 females) had departed Banjarmasin waters heading for New Zealand.
- The activities of the Vietnamese vessel are not currently a subject of an AFP/PST operation. DIMIA may be better placed to advise in relation to this vessel.

1.1 Was the source of the information from Vietnam or would have been further down the track?

- See Commissioner Keelty's answer: "the source is not in Vietnam." [p.29]

1.2 When did the reports first come to the People Smuggling Strike Team's attention?

- The AFP first received information on this vessel from media reports (24 May 2002).

1.3 When did the reports first come to the People Smuggling Taskforce's attention?

- Various representatives, from a variety of agencies, go to Task Force meetings. In the interests of accuracy it would be appropriate to direct this question to the Chair of that Committee to reference the items tabled during those discussions by the attendees.

1.4 When was the last sighting of the boat?

- This remains an ongoing DIMIA matter and it would not be appropriate to comment further about these reports.

2. Who chairs the high-level people smuggling taskforce? [p30]

- The high-level people smuggling task force is chaired by DIMIA.

3. Has the AFP had occasion to investigate or prosecute any asylum seekers?

- To date the AFP has not prosecuted any asylum seeker in relation to people smuggling issues.
- The AFP has had cause to investigate and prosecute asylum seekers, post landing, for offences that have occurred in Australia, such as escape lawful custody & criminal damage.
- Once asylum seekers are landed in Australia they become the responsibility of DIMIA. All enquires in relation to these persons such as overseas criminal history checks would be conducted by DIMIA.