



P.O. Box 157
Darwin, N.T. 4066
10/3/04

The Secretariat
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport C'ttee
Room 5662
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sirs,

Re: Import Risk Analysis for Bananas

As a private Australian citizen & a
retired Agronomist (NSW Dept Agriculture
- but not a fruit specialist - I support
the enquiry into the administration of
Biosecurity Australia, for the following reasons

- ① There is no such thing as a 100%
guarantee that bacterial, fungal or
viral infection can be detected in the
Phillippines or prevented by quarantine
from reaching Australia.
- ② It is well known that many
Director - Generals of Commonwealth
Departments are political appointments
by the Howard Government. The D.G.
of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry may or
may not be. If he is, the conclusions
of the Biosecurity Australia may well
be politically influenced.

③ The question now arises was there any lobbying campaign by any organisation which would benefit financially by the import of Phillipino bananas? Could the oligarchical U.S. based "Jacquinta" banana company have played a part? "Jacquinta" has already penetrated the Australian market. Their labelled ~~cont~~ banana containers can be seen in some of the major supermarket stores. I also believe that "Jacquinta" has bought out several ~~banana~~ Australian banana farms.

ACTION: As I see it the \$64,000 question for this Senate Committee ^(a) to investigate ~~if~~ whether there are links between "Jacquinta" (or any similar organisation) the Government & Biosecurity
 (b) to condense the risk of an import of Phillipino bananas, in any case.

With thanks
 Yours faithfully
 J Hartridge (MO) G. J. HARTRIDGE

P.S. I regret I do not have access to electronic equipment 79H
 P.P.S. This submission is a "followup" from a discussion with Jim Lantry at Senator Cherry's Toowoong headquarters. 79H.