

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

REPORT 95: REVIEW INTO TREATIES TABLED ON 4 JUNE, 25 JUNE AND 26 AUGUST 2008

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that in any specific arrangement concerning the exchange of Defence personnel, the Australian Government seeks to ensure that Australian personnel are protected from corporal and capital punishment under United Arab Emirates law.

Response:

The Government agrees in principle. It is the United Arab Emirates Government's strongly held view that its laws are a matter of national sovereignty. Within this context, the Australian Government would seek for Australian personnel to be protected from corporal and capital punishment.

Recommendation 7

The Committee supports the *Agreement between the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Government of Australia on Defence Cooperation* and recommends that the binding treaty action be taken.

Response:

The Government agrees that the recommendation is appropriate, and notes that binding treaty action has been taken.

Recommendation 11

The Committee supports the *Agreement with the French Republic Regarding Defence Cooperation and Status of Forces* and recommends that binding treaty action has been taken.

Response:

The Government agrees with the recommendation and supports the *Agreement with the French Republic Regarding Defence Cooperation and Status of Force*.

On 6 January 2009, an Exchange of Notes was sent to the Embassy of the French Republic advising that the Government of Australia has concluded all domestic procedures necessary for entry into force of the Agreement pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 1.

On 15 May 2009, the French Parliament ratified the Defence Cooperation Agreement. The Agreement will enter into force on the date that the French side notifies the Australian Government in writing, through diplomatic channels, that all its domestic procedures necessary for the entry into force have been concluded.