



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Submission No:.....46.....
Date Received: 9-2-09.....
Secretary:

BORDER AND INTERNATIONAL

GPO Box 401 Canberra City ACT 2601
www.afp.gov.au
ABN 17 864 931 143

4 February 2009

Dr John Carter
Secretary, Foreign Affairs Subcommittee
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Department of the House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Carter

I refer to your email request dated 23 January 2009 seeking a response to comments made by Burma Campaign Australia that training Burmese police was unlikely to be effective in combating crime.

You specifically asked the AFP to respond to the following:

- That AFP training is unlikely to be effective in combating crime, and
- Provide examples where Burmese police assistance has been a significant contributor to the success of AFP operations, or other counter-transnational crime operations.

For your reference details of the training provided by the AFP have previously been submitted to the Subcommittee.

The AFP has a strong focus on counter-narcotics and transnational crime and Burma is a significant source country for narcotics. It is important that their police are involved in regional efforts to combat drug trafficking. Burma is the world's second biggest producer of heroin and accounts for a large proportion of the heroin entering Australia.

In August 2006, Australian Federal Police (AFP) established an ongoing program that allows the AFP to assist the Myanmar Police Force (MPF) Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and its operational Anti-Narcotic Task Forces (ANTF) in identifying and dismantling heroin and Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) refineries. That assistance involves training and some operational support.

In August 2008, support was provided to a northern Shan state ANTF based on the China border in what was the first such joint-operation entered into in that area. The operation was successful and resulted in the discovery of a heroin refinery. Four other joint-operations were undertaken in southern Shan state in August

including the dismantling of a further heroin refinery and the seizure of a significant amount of heroin and ATS precursors. One of those heroin refineries had been in operation for 12 months and produced approximately 120kgs of heroin per batch.

The four operations saw the following drugs and explosive materials seized by the ANTF: 800 litres cooked opium; 363kgs opium; 1200kgs opium residue; 2,200 litres heroin precursors; 800kgs ammonium chloride; 21,000 ATS tablets; 77,500 pseudoephedrine tablets; 7 firearms; 2 hand grenades; 3,000 sticks of gelnite and 2,900 detonators.

It is estimated that 800kgs of ammonium chloride is sufficient to convert 157kgs of raw opium to injectable quality heroin. This amount of heroin would have a street value in Australia of \$58 million.

Between 23-26 January 2009 Burmese Police seized two separate heroin consignments totalling approx 150kgs. Part of the consignment had already left the port of Rangoon destined for the international market. A number of Burmese and other foreign nationals have been arrested, including a notorious trafficker who is wanted in two international jurisdictions. The success of that operation was largely due to the AFP's capacity building efforts in providing computerised analytical software and associated training to a specialist narcotic investigation team. Those tools were used to identify the suspects and in turn the location of the heroin. Senior members of the Burmese Police have stated that without AFP training and analytical software they would not have located and seized the heroin or effected the arrests.

On the Australian market, 150 kgs of heroin is worth AUD 27 million and amounts to 1.5 million hits on the street.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Osborne', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Commander Paul Osborne
Manager International Network