



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

9 May 2017

David Sullivan
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Dear Mr Sullivan,

The Department wishes to correct the record on QoN 228 from Additional Estimates in February 2016. The question relates to the Special Envoy of Trade.

Part of the question requested names of attendees at an *Australia Cuba Business Conference* in Cuba in 2016.

The response originally provided to the committee lists Juan Adeva of Solais Geoinformatics as an attendee. We have been advised Mr Scott Bywaters, who is the Chief Financial Officer of Solais Geoinformatics attended rather than Mr Aveda.

We have updated the question attached to reflect this.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Ray Marcelo
Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary and Media Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 228

Program: DFAT

Topic: Special Envoy for Trade

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. On 18 February 2016, Mr Ciobo was sworn in as the Minister for Trade and Investment, and Mr Robb was moved to the backbench but appointed Special Envoy for Trade.**
 - a. What is the role of the Special Envoy for Trade. Please describe.**
 - b. What is the legal status of a Special Envoy.**
 - c. What is the status of a Special Envoy vis-à-vis DFAT.**
 - d. Can a Special Envoy of Trade provide instructions or directions directly to DFAT or Austrade.**
 - e. How many staff does the Special Envoy of Trade have. Who are they.**

- 2. With reference to the media release titled 'Robb signs sports MOU with Cuba' dated 25 February 2016:**
 - a. Did Mr Robb sign the MOU on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia.**
 - b. Under what authority did Mr Robb sign for Australia.**
 - c. Who accompanied Mr Robb to Cuba.**
 - d. How many events did Mr Robb attend in Cuba. Who attended each event.**
 - e. What was the cost of this trip to Cuba.**

- 3. What overseas travel is planned for Mr Robb this year. What is the purpose of each trip. Who will accompany Mr Robb.**

Answer

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1a) As Special Envoy for Trade, Mr Robb will provide support to the Minister for Trade and Investment, including continuing a leading role in advancing some ongoing negotiations.

1b) Special envoys have been appointed by previous governments to handle a range of issues. Mr Robb will not be paid for his work as Special Envoy.

1c) Mr Robb will be supported by DFAT and Austrade in carrying out his duties.

1d) Mr Robb will receive directions and instructions from the Prime Minister, and work in close consultation with the Minister for Trade and Investment. DFAT will support Mr Robb in undertaking his duties.

1e) Staff positions are managed by the Department of Finance.

2a) Yes.

2b) Mr Robb signed the MOU on behalf of the Government. The MOU is an instrument of less-than-treaty status and does not create legally binding obligations under international law. As such, there was no requirement that a formal instrument of full powers be issued.

2c) The following business delegates and government officials accompanied Mr Robb to Cuba. As the Australian Government does not maintain an Embassy in Cuba, logistics coordination, and on-group support for the mission was provided by staff from the Australian Embassy in Mexico.

Minister's party

- The Hon Andrew Robb AO, Special Envoy Trade, Australian Government
- Chief of Staff to the Special Envoy Trade
- Advisor to the Special Envoy Trade

Business Delegates

- Ms Kim Prior, Chair, Australia-Cuba Business Council
- Prof Adrian Hearn, Associate Professor, The University of Melbourne
- Mr David Williams, Managing Director, Pure Projects
- Mr Richard Norton, Managing Director, Meat & Livestock Australia
- Mr Rod Hayes, Chairman and CEO, Balance Services Group
- Mr Peter Stickland, Managing Director & CEO, MEO Australia Limited
- Mr Joachim Meister, Senior Vice President, WorleyParsons
- Mr Reinhardt Matisons, Executive Vice President, Woodside Energy Ltd
- Mrs Elizabeth Lewis-Gray, Chair, METS Ignited Ltd
- Mr Scott Bywaters, Chief Financial Officer, Solais Geoinformatics
- Mr Raúl Francisco Vargas Dávila, Finance Manager, Ulaex-Orica

Government Officials

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- Mr David Engel, Australian Ambassador to Mexico and non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua.
- Mr Chris Rodwell, Trade Commissioner, Austrade Mexico City
- Ms Prerana Mehta, Manager, Ministerial Business Missions, Austrade Canberra
- Ms Helen Mitchell, Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, Mexico City
- Ms Ana Murray, Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, Mexico City
- Mr Manuel Barbera, Business Development Manager, Austrade Mexico City
- Mr Edgar Sanchez, Education Manager, Austrade Mexico City
- Mr Eugenio Morales, Senior Research and Media Manager, Australian Embassy, Mexico City
- Mr Chris Ellinger, Office Manager, Australian Embassy, Mexico City
- Ms Itzel Salas, Assistant, Australian Embassy, Mexico City

2d) Mr Robb attended eight events in Cuba. Attendees at each event are listed, where known.

Tuesday 23 February 2016

1. *Commemorative concert for 150th Anniversary of First Cuban to visit Australia*
 - Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c)
2. *Welcome dinner and briefing (delegation only)*
 - Business delegates listed in response 2(c) and, Ms Prerana Mehta, Manager, Ministerial Business Missions, Austrade Canberra

Wednesday 24 February 2016

3. *Australia Cuba Business Conference*
 - Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c)
 - Orlando Hernández Guillén, President, Cuban Chamber of Commerce
 - Dr Celia Labora Rodríguez, Director, Cuban Chamber of Commerce
 - Doriliz Díaz Rodríguez, Specialist Asia, Cuban Chamber of Commerce
 - Rigoberto Enoa, Director, Department of Commercial Policy in charge of Asian and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment
 - Loida Rivera Fabré, Deputy Director, Department of Commercial Policy in charge of Asian and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment
 - Nathalie Gallardo Leyva, Commercial Specialist, Department of Commercial Policy in charge of Asian and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment
 - Representatives from Cuban business organisations invited by Cuban Chamber of Commerce
 - Representatives from local media
4. *Doing Business in Cuba briefing (delegation only)*

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- Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c)

5. *Evening reception*

- Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c)
- Moises Rodriguez Perez, Vice President Cuba, Prior Industries
- Alexis Carbonell Carrasco, Specialist Engineer, Prior Industries
- Giovanni Catalano, CEO, Petro Australis Ltd
- Scott Bywaters, Chief Financial Officer, Solais Geoinformatics
- Brendan Augustin, General Manager, Government & International Relations
Woodside Energy Ltd
- Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz, Trade & Investment Minister, Ministry of Trade & Investment
- Rigoberto Enoa Novo, Director of Commercial Policy with Asia & Oceania, Ministry of Trade & Investment
- Loida Rivera Fabr e, Deputy Director of Trade Policy with Asia & Oceania, Ministry of Trade & Investment
- Nathalie Gallardo Leyva, Trade Specialist, Directorate for Trade Policy with Asia & Oceania, Ministry for Trade & Investment
- Gerardo Pe alver Portal, Director General Bilateral Affairs, and spouse
- Miguel  ngel Ram rez, Director Asia and Oceania, and spouse
- Yaim e Cuenca Arocha, Specialist from the Directorate for Asia & Oceania in charge of relationship with Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Kenia Serrano Puig, President, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP)
- Alicia Corredera, VicePresident, ICAP
- Odalys L pez, Director Institutional Relations, ICAP
- Martha Lidia Ruiz P rez, Director, Institutional Relationships, Sports and Physical Education (INDER)
- Manuel Ben tez P rez, Officer, INDER
- Luis Alberto P rez Olivares, Director General, CUBADEPORTES
- Omar Torres, International Relations Directorate, National Assembly of Popular Power
- Norkis Arteaga, Head of Business Department, BIOCUBAFARMA
- Juan Ruiz Quintana, Director General Mining, MINEM
- Rosell Guerra, Director General Energy, MINEM
- Ariel Orta Calvo, Officer, International Organisations and Collaboration, MINEM
- Moraima C spedes Morales, Director International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG)
- Leonardo P rez Mesa, International Relations Coordinator, MINAG
- Mar a Dolores Rivera, Business Development Director, MINAG
- Alaimys Martinez Torres, Officer International Affairs, MINAG
- Claudia Guti rrez Ramos, Officer – Business and Partnerships, MINAG

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- Ritzi González Miret, Head of Partnerships Department, MINAG
- Telce A. González Morales, Director Grains Institute, MINAG
- Germán Ferraz Álvarez, Asia and Oceania Coordinator, Directorate of International Affairs, Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba
- Yanila Reyes Pared, Officer in charge of Australia, Directorate of International Affairs, Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba
- Alfredo Ruiz, Director International Affairs, Ministry of Culture (MINCULT)
- Karina Palacios, Officer Asia, MINCULT
- Karla, Officer, Cuban Institute of Film Industry (ICAIC)
- Margarita González, Deputy Director, Centro Wilfredo Lam
- Mario Escalona, Director, EGREM
- Prof Eduardo Torres Cuevas, Director National Library (BN) and Head of History Department, University of Habana
- Yolanda Núñez, Director International Affairs, National Library

Thursday 25 February 2016

6. *Roundtable on Opportunities in Mining and Energy in Cuba*

- Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c), with exception of Reinhardt Matisons
- Rosell Guerra Campaña, Director of Renewable Energy, Cuban Ministry of Mining
- Yanela Fuentes, specialist in the Directorate General of Mining
- Ariel Orta, specialist, Cuban Ministry of Mining
- Juan A. Barrizonte Ballesteros, Director Exploration & Production, CUPET
- Virginia Hernández Portuondo, Specialist, Trade Intelligence & Suppliers Portfolio, CUPET
- Leuris Sánchez Bell, Director of Logistics, GEOMINSAL(Geology & Mining Business Group)
- Gustavo Puentes Pereda, Business Director, GEOMINSAL
- Leismir Acosta Couto, Renewable Energy Section, UNE (Electrical Union)
- Dieter Rojas Remis, Renewable Energy Section, UNE

7. *Site visit to Mariel Port*

- Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c)

8. *Delegation de-briefing and final dinner (delegation only)*

- Minister's party, business delegates and government officials listed in response 2(c)

2e) Costs and details for Mr Robb's travel are available from the Department of Finance (DoF), which is responsible for the cost of airfares, accommodation, meals and incidentals, ground transport, non-portfolio-related hospitality and

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miscellaneous incidentals for Ministers and their staff. DoF tables a document on Ministerial Travel expenses every six months.

3) Mr Robb's overseas travel plans for this year are still under consideration.