

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/085) - Ministers travel - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton travelled to Geneva in September of this year. What was the purpose of that trip?

When was it decided that he would take this trip?

On the way back to Australia from that trip, he went to Cambodia to discuss the failing refugee deal. When was that side trip organised?

What trip was organised first?

What was the intention of his trip to Cambodia?

Answer:

On 14 July 2015, the Office of then Prime Minister the Hon Tony Abbott MP approved travel for the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, to visit Geneva in late October/early November 2015 and Cambodia in the second half of 2015.

Due to the worsening refugee situation in the Middle East and Europe, and with the agreement of the Prime Minister, Minister Dutton visited Europe (Paris and Geneva) earlier than planned to meet the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other partners, including the International Organization for Migration and the International Committee of the Red Cross, on possible further humanitarian assistance.

Following these meetings, the Minister travelled to Phnom Penh for discussions with the Cambodian Government as part of a range of regular consultations between our two governments across a number of issues, including cooperation on addressing irregular migration in the region. The visit reinforced the commitment of the Australian and Cambodian Governments to the successful implementation of the resettlement arrangements for refugees from Nauru.