



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

20 November 2003

Mr Brenton Holmes  
Secretary  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2604

Dear Mr Holmes

I am writing to clarify an aspect of evidence given by Mr John Buckley, First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division, to the Committee during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 6 November 2003.

Mr Buckley said, in paragraph 5 on page 48, that the department destroyed ONA documents in-house after those documents were read and returned to the area of the department responsible for their distribution. After further investigation of the issue, Mr Buckley has advised that the department destroys in-house certain categories of highly classified documents. The majority of intelligence documents, including ONA documents, are destroyed by one of the intelligence agencies on the department's behalf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Foskett'.

Douglas Foskett  
Parliamentary Liaison Section