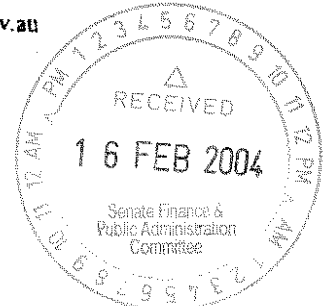




THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ASIO, ASIS AND DSD

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone 02 6277 2360 ~ Facsimile 02 6277 2067 ~ E-mail pjcaad@aph.gov.au

The Hon John Howard MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Prime Minister

In accordance with Schedule 1, Clause 7 (3) of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*, I wish to submit the attached draft report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD (The Committee), entitled *The Accuracy of Pre-war Intelligence on Iraq*, for your information.

As you are aware, Clause 7 (3) of the Act stipulates that the Committee must obtain the advice of the responsible Ministers on two particular grounds, that is, whether the disclosure of any part of the report would or might disclose information on:

- the identity of a member of the relevant intelligence agencies; or
- operationally sensitive information that would or might prejudice Australia's security, foreign relations or the performance by an agency of its functions.

Under this requirement, copies of the draft report have been submitted to the Committee's two portfolio ministers as required under the Act, in this instance, the Minister for Defence, Senator The Hon Robert Hill and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer, MP. The Committee requests that the draft be passed to the responsible agencies for assessment as required under the statute, but that, in the spirit of usual parliamentary procedures, it not be distributed to ministerial offices or more broadly than necessary in departments.

The Committee has a reporting date of 1 March 2004 and is seeking to proceed with tabling arrangements by 20 February 2004.

Should you have any queries about the draft, your office should contact the Committee Secretary, Ms Margaret Swieringa, on telephone (02) 6277 4348 or e-mail at margaret.swieringa.reps@aph.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

DAVID JULL MP
Committee Chair