

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 24 May 2004

Question: PM 44 – 47

Outcome 3, Output 3.1.

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PM 44 – When did International Division become aware of and receive the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Report of February 2004? When did International Division first become aware of the mistreatment of Iraqi detainees?

International Division first became aware of the ICRC report dated 10 February 2004 from media reports on 10 May 2004. It obtained a copy of the report on 11 May 2004. While material on the issue of detention operations and treatment in Iraq was in the public domain from June 2003, International Division first became aware of the serious abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison from media reporting on 29-30 April 2004.

PM 45 – When did International Division receive a copy of the Amnesty International report and the Human-Rights Watch report?

International Division received a copy of the Amnesty International report of 18 March 2004, titled "Iraq: One Year On", on 11 May 2004. The report of Amnesty International of July 2003 titled "Iraq: Memorandum on Concerns Relating to Law and Order", was received by International Division on 14 May 2004. The only Human Rights Watch report addressing detention issues in the possession of International Division is the document titled "Iraq: Memorandum of Concerns Relating to Law and Order" of June 2003, which was obtained on 11 June 2004.

PM 46 - What were the dates of the ADF situation reports and the dates they were received by PM&C?

SITREP 3/2 (Period 23-29 February 2004) was forwarded on 1 March 2004 by DFAT to two PM&C officers in relation to another matter covered by the situation report. PM&C received from DFAT on 10 May 2004 an excerpt from the earlier sitrep, SITREP 13 (Period 9-15 February 2004).

PM 47 - When did PM&C provide briefings to the Prime Minister on the issue of treatment of detainees in Iraq?

International Division provided a number of briefings to the Prime Minister and his office on this issue from 1 May 2004. These briefings followed international and domestic media reporting on 29-30 April 2004 of serious incidents of abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.