

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008



Question: PM15

Outcome 1, Output 3

Topic: Mamdouh Habib

Hansard Page: F&PA 93

Senator Nettle asked: -The explanation from the Attorney-General's Department is that the meeting agreed that the 'government could not agree to the transfer of Mr Habib'. This is in October. Later on, ASIO formed the view that it was likely that Mr Habib was in Egypt. ASIO have already explained to me that they communicated the view of the Australian government to the United States authorities that they could not agree to the transfer of Mr Habib. I am wondering if the Prime Minister's department, office or the Prime Minister took any action at the point at which the government department formed the view that Mr Habib was in Egypt.

Mr Borrowman-I will have to take that on notice.

Answer: On 5 April 2002 the department provided an adviser in the former Prime Minister's Office with an information brief about Mr Habib's whereabouts.