

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 58

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:

In relation to information provided by Dr Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre:

- a) Has information been provided to the Attorney-General about particular war criminals in the last 12 months?
- b) What action has been taken in respect of those matters?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) and b) In relation to information provided by Dr Efraim Zuroff, no specific information relating to war criminals has been provided to the Attorney-General. However, on 8 June 2005, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade forwarded an allegation of war crimes committed during World War II against two Australian nationals. This allegation was made by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre (SWC) to the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The AFP commenced an investigation into the allegations, which revealed that both individuals were deceased. Accordingly, no further action was taken.

Also, on 6 April 2006, the AFP (via the Law Enforcement Liaison Officer to the Minister for Justice and Customs) received a referral from Dr Efraim Zuroff, alleging that another Australian national had committed war crimes during World War II. On 20 April 2006, the SWC withdrew its allegation - but indicated that it was seeking additional evidence in relation to this individual. AGD has now been provided with an interim death certificate, pending confirmation of the recent death of this Australian national.