

7 November 2006

Senator Payne  
Chair  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Senator Payne

**LETTER OF CORRECTION – AFP APPEARANCE BEFORE SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING 31 OCTOBER 2006**

During the Estimates Hearing before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee on 31 October 2006, Commissioner Keelty advised that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) received a referral from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) relating to alleged breaches of trade sanctions by certain Australian companies. The Commissioner stated the written referral was received from DFAT via the Minister for Justice and Customs on 23 February 2006. (Hansard L&CA page 72)

I wish to correct the record that on 9 February 2006, DFAT sent a letter to the Minister for Justice and Customs that companies, other than those subject to the Cole Inquiry, committed offences under Australian law by breaching trade sanctions. DFAT requested the Minister forward this referral to the AFP for investigation. The Minister's office forwarded this correspondence to the AFP on 13 February 2006.

On 16 February 2006, the AFP requested DFAT provide material in support of the allegations made in its correspondence of 9 February 2006.

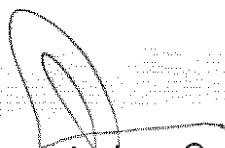
On 20 February 2006, DFAT provided the AFP with information in relation to Australian companies suspected of breaching Australian law. These companies are not subject to the Cole Inquiry.

On 23 February 2006, the AFP requested further information from DFAT in support of the allegations of breaching trade sanctions. The AFP outlined the need for a specific allegation and documentation or material on which to test the veracity of the allegation.

On 13 April 2006, DFAT provided detailed documentation in relation to the alleged breach of trade sanctions by seven Australian companies.

This information was evaluated by the AFP and accepted for investigation on 15 June 2006.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Colvin', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Colvin  
Chief of Staff