



*Inquiry into certain Australian companies in relation to the
UN Oil-for-Food Programme*

Reasons

1. At transcript 6430, Mr Varghese was asked “whether the 10 per cent surcharge and the inland transport fee payable on all goods imported under the Oil-for-Food Program were the subject of ministerial report” from the Office of National Assessments.¹ He replied: “We would have – I can recall one reference in one of our reports to the Iraqi interest in surcharges.”²
2. He thought that the report “probably was during the period of the Oil-for-Food Program.”³
3. At transcript 6628, Mr Forrest requested that I, or Counsel Assisting, consider making the document referred to public, or if that was inappropriate for public interest immunity reasons, that there be prepared a distillation of the substance of the document.
4. Counsel Assisting has considered the document and advised me that it is not material to any matter within my Terms of Reference and he did not intend to tender it. The Practice Note (at paragraph 10) permits a person authorised to appear, if dissatisfied with that decision, to apply to me for the document to be tendered. To accelerate the process, I have considered the document.
5. I agree that the document is not material to, or of assistance in relation to, any matter within my Terms of Reference. The document refers to surcharges on the sale of Iraqi oil. I do not require the document to be tendered or otherwise made public.

12 April 2006

¹ Transcript 6430/40 – 43.

² Transcript 6431/2 – 3.

³ Transcript 6431/28 – 29.