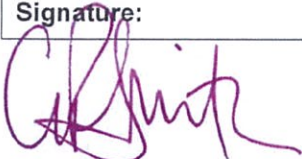




BRIEFING NOTE FOR  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE



<b>Title:</b>	PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATION OF DETAINEE MISTREATMENT		
<b>NZDF File No:</b>	NZDF Tracking #: 2017-311 (For OCDF Use Only)	Minister's Tracking#: (For Minister's Office)	
<b>Importance of the Issue:</b>	High	Moderate	Routine
<b>Urgency for Attention/Sign-Off:</b>	Not Urgent	Request Ministerial response by: Not required	
<b>Contact:</b>	Commodore Ross Smith	PSR(IC)3	PSR(IC)3
<p>1. Following the publication of the book <i>Hit and Run</i>, I directed that an investigation be conducted by the Military Police into an allegation made in that book that a detainee had been mistreated. This investigation has now been completed and no evidence of mistreatment has been found. PSR(S)2, PSR(S)3 All but one of the New Zealand Defence Force soldiers present at the alleged incident were interviewed.</p> <p>2. The allegation relates to an incident that occurred in Kabul on 15 January 2011. The investigation has revealed that the Afghan Crisis Response Unit took Mr Qari Miraj into custody. Members of the New Zealand Defence Force were not present in the building at the moment of his detention but members of the New Zealand Defence Force did search him outside of the building in which he was detained. After transportation to the Afghan National Directorate of Security detention facility, Mr Qari Miraj was searched again by New Zealand Defence Force personnel, photographed and examined by a New Zealand Defence Force Medical Officer. Neither the photos nor the medical examination revealed any signs of ill-treatment.</p> <p>3. Based upon the results of the Military Police investigation, I do not intend to undertake any further investigation. I do intend to release a public statement announcing the findings of the investigation later in October. I will forward a draft of the release to your office in due course.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>4. I recommend that you:</p> <p>a. <b>Note</b> that allegations of mistreatment of Mr Qari Miraj have been investigated and no evidence has been disclosed that supports the allegations; and</p> <p>b. <b>Note</b> that I intend to announce the findings of the investigation later in October.</p>			
<b>Minister's Comments:</b>			
<b>Minister's Action:</b>	Signed / Noted / Agreed / Approved / Declined / Discussion Required		
	Referred to:		
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>		

  
**T.J. KEATING**  
 Lieutenant General  
 Chief of Defence Force

Date: 11 October 2017