

2014

S9(2)(a)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2014 2:38 p.m.
To: S9(2)(a)
Cc: (MEA); MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Peter Bailey -WLG S9(2)(a)
Chris Carson Matthew
Stone MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY) (RIY);
CORRY, Bede (DS APE); CRAIG, Sarah (CEO Office) S9(2)(a)
Subject: SAUDI AGRI-HUB PROJECT

SAUDI AGRI-HUB PROJECT: BREEDING PROGRAMME ISSUE

The Saudi Agri-Hub Governance Group met on 12 December to discuss latest developments.

Following the airfreighting of 900 in-lamb breeding ewes to the Al Khalaf farm in Saudi Arabia in October, where all the sheep arrived safely and in good health, we are now aware that many of the lambs born at the farm in recent weeks are not surviving.

The exact details are unclear, including sheep management, fatality numbers and the cause of death. NZTE and MFAT are working closely with Brownrigg Agriculture - the lead provider of the NZ Saudi AgriHub project - to identify, evaluate and accurately report on the issues. As a result a veterinarian, stockman and NZTE representative will travel to Saudi Arabia this weekend. In addition Al Khalaf's representative George Assaf will accompany the team from Sydney.

As the lambs are Al Khalaf's property, a report will be prepared for the Al Khalaf Group outlining the team's assessment of the cause the lamb deaths, and suggestions for moving towards best practice in running a sheep breeding operation. The New Zealand team will also discuss alternatives to transporting livestock for breeding purposes, including AI and embryo transfer techniques and technologies in-country.

It is important to note that while this is a potential setback for Al Khalaf's proposed breeding programme, other components of the NZ Saudi AgriHub involving New Zealand agriculture technologies and design remain on track.

S 6(a)

Al Khalaf Group Breeding Programme

We understand that Sheikh Hammad, principal of Al Khalaf Group,

S6(a)

has this week invited the expert team from New Zealand to visit the farm, and we understand has sent samples for laboratory testing in Saudi Arabia. This will allow for a thorough review of the proposed breeding programme.

It is important for the future of the project and the ongoing relationship with the Saudi interests that the review focuses on understanding causes and identifying options for improvement.

In earlier visits to the farm NZ technical experts were encouraged by the apparent preparedness of the Al Khalaf team, including the building of isolation pens, and testing lambing procedures with Saudi ewes and lambs over the past year.

sb(a)

Next steps

The New Zealand team will arrive in Saudi Arabia as soon as possible (they have been delayed by visa approval from the Saudi consulate which is expected today). And will spend next week gathering the information required to pull together a detailed report.

The laboratory testing being undertaken by the Saudi authorities will be an important input into the report being jointly authored by Brownrigg Agriculture and NZTE's project manager.

sb(a)

Officials will update Ministers next week, with the final report for Al Khalaf Group due in January – dependent on the information to be provided by the Saudi interests.

Jeff Langley

Manager, Middle East and Africa Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ph: 59(2)(a)
M:



NEW ZEALAND
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2015-16



LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2014 2:13 p.m.
To: Chris Carson
Cc: s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Saudi sheep

Chris/

I'm hoping to keep this to an informal email update to our minister's office to convey the steps being taken but not to escalate up to a formal report as there is really no reliable information to go on.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(d) Let me know what you think of this asap and we'll put it up to our minister this afternoon and you can share with yours too:

SAUDI AGRI-HUB PROJECT: BREEDING PROGRAMME ISSUE

The Saudi Agri-Hub Governance Group met on 12 December to discuss latest developments.

Following the airfreighting of 900 in-lamb breeding ewes to the Al Khalaf farm in Saudi Arabia in October, where all the sheep arrived safely and in good health, we are now aware that many of the lambs born at the farm in recent weeks are not surviving.

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s6(a) s6(a)
Al Khalaf Group Breeding Programme

We understand that Sheikh Hmood, principal of Al Khalaf Group,

s6(a)
this week invited the expert team from New Zealand to visit the farm, and we understand has sent samples for laboratory testing in Saudi Arabia. This will allow for a thorough review of the proposed breeding programme. has

It is important for the future of the project and the ongoing relationship with the Saudi interests that the review focuses on understanding causes and identifying options for improvement.

Earlier visits to the farm by NZ technical experts were encouraged by the preparedness of the Al Khalaf team, including the building of isolation pens, and testing lambing procedures with Saudi ewes and lambs over the past year.

sb(a)

Next steps

The New Zealand team will arrive in Saudi Arabia as soon as possible (they have been delayed by visa approval from the Saudi consulate which is now expected today). And will spend next week gathering the information required to pull together a detailed report.

The laboratory testing being undertaken by the Saudi authorities will be an important input into the report being jointly authored by Brownrigg Agriculture and NZTE's project manager.

sb(a)

Officials will update Ministers next week, with the final report for Al Khalaf Group due in January – dependent on the information to be provided by the Saudi interests.

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Carson :

Sent: Friday, 12 December 2014 1:43 p.m.

To: LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

Cc: Matthew Stone

Subject: Saudi sheep

sg(2)(a)

Hi Jeff,

Are you pulling together a note for ministers today? Can you share the draft? We'd be keen to see something like following in the paper.

Cheers
Chris

sb(a)

[seemail]

Sent from my iPhone

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RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 6:51 p.m.
To: s 9(2)(a) (MEA); s 9(2)(a) (RIY)
Cc: MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY); s 9(2)(a) (MEA); HORNE, Stuart (MEA); s 9(2)(a) (RIY); MATHESON, Alex (ECO)
Subject: RE: Saudi sheep

Hi All

Alex and I briefed the minister this afternoon. We outlined the situation as far as we know it and discussed implications for the Agri-Hub project and for the breeding programme element within it. It was acknowledged that we need more detailed information (including specific details of what happened, lab test results, and what will be done now) before coming to any judgements.

MFA was keen to ensure that Brownrigg agriculture gets actively engaged to manage their (and our) reputational risk. We are meeting with Brownrigg on Friday morning. From that meeting we will produce an update for MFA on steps being taken and some defensive points for the office in the unlikely eventuality that the situation gets some sort of public profile.

Cheers

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

From: s 9(2)(a) (MEA)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 2:28 p.m.
To: s 9(2)(a) (RIY)
Cc: MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY); s 9(2)(a) (MEA); HORNE, Stuart (MEA); s 9(2)(a) LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)
Subject: RE: Saudi sheep

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi

We met with Alex Matheson today on the below. It will also be discussed with the Minister this afternoon, and we will keep you updated. Key points of the discussion were –

- s 6(a) there has not been any suggestion that NZ is to blame, and NZers should now have access to help resolve the problem and see what's going on
- The sheep-breeding programme was just one aspect of the programme. We are still working towards a sustainable/long term economic partnership.

We'd be grateful if you don't send an FM on this issue at present, until we have had the chance to speak to the Minister and a clearer knowledge of the situation.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: s 9(2)(a) (MEA)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 10:23 a.m.
To: s 9(2)(a) (RIY)

Cc: (RIY); s 9(2)(a) ; s 9(2)(a) (RIY)
Subject: FW: Saudi sheep

Hi s 9(2)(a)

I'm sure RIY is well aware of the below, but we are forwarding it to you just in case.

Thank you

s 9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 10:11 a.m.
To: s 9(2)(a) (MEA); s 9(2)(a) (MEA)
Subject: FW: Saudi sheep

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: MATHESON, Alex (ECO)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 9:23 a.m.
To: HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Subject: FW: Saudi sheep

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 8:39 a.m.
To: MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Quentin.Quin@nzte.govt.nz; s 9(2)(a) @brownrigg.
Cc: s 9(2)(a) ; LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)
Subject: Re: Saudi sheep [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Yes, the need for very regular updates to GG is now obvious.

Can we all manage 9 am ?

s 9(2)(a) suggest you co-ordinate time/numbers et al.

Thanks

s 9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: MATHESON, Alex (ECO)
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 7:58 AM
To: 'Quentin.Quin@nzte.govt.nz' ; s 9(2)(a) @brownrigg.co.nz'
Cc: s 9(2)(a) ;
Subject: Re: Saudi sheep [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

; LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

MFAT Device Tag: UNCLASSIFIED

Works for me

----- Original Message -----

From: Quentin Quin -AKL [mailto:Quentin.Quin@nzte.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 07:52 AM New Zealand Standard Time

To: s9(2)(a) @brownrigg.

Cc:

MATHERSON, Alex (ECO); Peter Bailey -WLG

s9(2)(a).

Subject: Re: Saudi sheep

Thanks s9(2)(a) is it possible to schedule a teleconference governance meeting for 30 minutes say Friday morning and round table an update on just this particular matter.

Best - Quentin

Sent from my iPhone

The remaining emails are
withheld under sections
s9(2)(b)(ii) + s9(2)(ba)

Saudi-NZ Agri Hub

Governance Group Meeting Minutes

28 October, 2014

Withheld under sections
s9(2)(b)(ii) + s9(2)(ba)

SAUDI-NZ AGRI HUB

Governance Group Meeting

1.00 pm Tuesday 28th October, 2014

Brownrigg Agriculture Boardroom

Hastings

Agenda

Governance Group Members:

Mike Taylor (Chairman)
Alex Matheson
Quentin Quin
David Brownrigg

Attending:

John Austin Smith – Minutes
Peter Bailey-NZTE

1. Apologies
Confirmation of Minutes of 22nd August 2014 Meeting
Matters Arising
2. Project Updates
 - Airfreight
 - Sheep Research
 - Technologies
 - Abattoir
 - Forages
3. Other Business
 - Accommodation Recommendations
 - Introduction to KSA for visitors to the site
 - Other

S9(2)(a)

From: RIYADH
Sent: Sunday, 19 October 2014 8:09 p.m.
To: MEA
Cc:

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: SAUDI ARABIA: SAUDI/NZ AGRI HUB PROJECT: ARRIVAL OF AWASSI BREEDING SHEEP

Report

Following the arrival of the 900 pregnant Awassi breeding sheep in the Kingdom, HOM MacMaster, Special Envoy Matheson, NZTE S9(2)(a) and Riyadh Trade Commissioner S9(2)(a) visited the Um Alerrad Agri Hub Demonstration Farm on 14 October. There they were met by the Saudi investor Hmood Al Khalaf, his Australian agent George Assaf, others from the Al Khalaf group and New Zealand contractors such as David Brownrigg involved in the project. All the latter group were exhausted, having worked through the past two nights to ensure the animals were well settled. Objectives for the Embassy visit were to demonstrate to the Saudi side the ongoing commitment in the project from the NZ end, building the commercial relationship with the Saudi principals given the recent arrival of TC Tozer and reviewing Agri Hub developments on the farm.

2 The arrival of these animals is a significant milestone in the development of this project. The 900 Awassi sheep had all arrived safely (i.e. no casualties on the flight) and appeared to be in excellent condition, eating and drinking well. The process of unloading the plane at Hofuf airport and transporting the sheep to the farm had gone very smoothly. Saudi agriculture authorities had allowed the animals to disembark immediately with quarantine and vaccination formalities completed later on the farm. There were two vets in attendance of the animals on the farm and they testified to the good condition of the animals.

3 It was encouraging to view the visible progress that had been made on the Agri Hub project since Minister Guy's visit in May. New feedlots have been built for all the NZ Awassi sheep and nearby the recently constructed silage sorting facilities were clearly visible. The pellet making building is almost complete, while new fencing and signage gave the project a more established look. With accommodation for the contractors now ready close to the site, there will be a steady stream of New Zealand contractors visiting in the coming months. Similarly we were told the Saudi Agriculture Minister Balghunaim whose organic farm is just down the road, is a regular visitor.

4 Overall the Saudi NZ Agri Hub demonstration farm is moving ahead well. It was clear that there is a good project management and operational relationship between NZTE, MFAT, Brownrigg and the Al Khalaf group and this will be a real asset as the project progresses. There are 16 New Zealand

technology companies already engaged in the Agri Hub project and that number is expected to increase twofold as the project proceeds.

5 The next few months will be of intense activity for the Agri Hub. A woolshed, covered yards and handling facilities are currently being shipped to Saudi Arabia in kitset form. Sheep and cattle auto handler, drafters, weigh scales and associated technologies are also being shipped and are expected to be commissioned by January 2015. This is against an ongoing programme of sheep breeding research, already well underway. The specifications of the processing facility are to be signed off in the coming weeks. Again this facility will be designed and kitset built in New Zealand and shipped to Saudi Arabia.

Comment

6 While obviously all very tired, the Saudi principals and New Zealand contractors, including the vets on the farm, were very pleased with how the shipment had gone. The Saudi side is also clearly delighted at the project's overall progress. The Agri Hub is capturing the attention of senior Saudi officials and has been visited by the Saudi Minister of Agriculture. The focus now will be on translating this interest to commercial opportunities through showcasing New Zealand technology and expertise, a significant future preoccupation of the Embassy's recently appointed Trade Commissioner.

ENDS

LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 10:28 a.m.
To: David Brownrigg; Peter Bailey -WLG; MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Quentin Quin -AKL; matthew.stone(s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) :
Cc: s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Saudi sheep all arrived safe and sound

Thanks David, a great outcome reflecting a hugely professional effort from all concerned. The message has been passed on to Minister McCully in New York who has been following progress with interest and was pleased to get the good news..

Cheers

Jeff

From: David Brownrigg s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 10:01 a.m.
To: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); Peter Bailey -WLG; MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Quentin Quin -AKL; matthew.stone(s9(2)(a) Mike Taylor s9(2)(a)
Cc: s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
Subject: Saudi sheep all arrived safe and sound

Hi All... as some of you will have heard, the Singapore Airlines 747 400 freighter with 900 sheep on board touched down late morning Sunday Saudi local time at the desert airfield of Hofufu. The sheep travelled well and arrived in good order, much to the satisfaction of Sheik Hmood.

Transfer of the crates to Hmood's waiting flatbed trucks for the journey to the farm went smoothly and the sheep are now tucking into NZ feed pellets as they begin the transition to their new environment.

Thanks for your support during this challenging but ultimately satisfying project.

Kind Regards

David

David Brownrigg
BROWNRIGG AGRICULTURE
Phone: s9(2)(a)
Email: s9(2)(a)

LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 8:46 a.m.
To: PM's Foreign Policy Adviser [DPMC] s9(2)(a)
MFA Private Secretary s9(2)(a)
Cc: CRAIG, Sarah (CEO Office); CORRY, Bede (DS APE); WALKER, David (DS TEG);
MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY); NOTTAGE, Hunter (LGL/TLU); HARVEY, Martin (TND);
s9(2)(a) (MEA); s9(2)(a) (MEA); MATHESON, Alex (ECO)
Subject: FW: Sheep have arrived safely [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s9(2)(a)

grateful you let the Minister know the air shipment of sheep to Saudi Arabia has arrived safe and sound with no casualties.

Transport from farm to Auckland, flight to Singapore, transit and flight to Saudi, and unloading and transport to farm all went smoothly.

Riyadh will report formally in due course.

From: Peter Bailey -WLG
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 07:54 AM New Zealand Standard Time
To: Peter Chrisp -WLG ; Quentin Quin -AKL
Cc: MATHESON, Alex (ECO)
Subject: Sheep have arrived safely

Gâ€™Day all from Riyadh,

I have just arrived in Riyadh, (a bit cooler than Dubai) and have a very brief update regarding the sheep arrival to the Um Alerrad Agri Hub Demonstration farm.

The 900 sheep have arrived and are all ensconced at Um Alerrad Agri Hub demonstration farm. The sheep are all eating and drinking which is a good outcome after such a long flight. There were no casualties on the flight.

The final process from unloading the plane at Hofuf airport and transporting the sheep to the farm went smoothly. Credit must go to David Brownrigg and his project team to have organised and carried out the complex delivery of the sheep from Hawkes Bay NZ to Um Alerrad farm KSA. Also it must be noted the support of MFAT and MPI and their contribution to facilitate it from a compliance perspective.

The delivery of the sheep has been a successful and important part of the project to date.

I will report further after we have been to the farm on 14 October or if other information comes to hand.

Regards

Peter

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LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

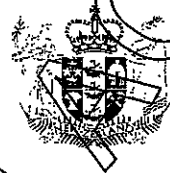
From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2014 6:01 p.m.
To: CORRY, Bede (DS APE); CRAIG, Sarah (CEO Office)
Subject: Saudi Sheep: Note for Ministers
Attachments: AM14-147_Sheep to Saudi_StoneM_2.doc; ATT00002.txt

FYI, This is the note from MPI that went up to Ministers' offices late yesterday. Feedback from MFA was broadly positive.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

AM14-147

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Aide-memoire:

From: Matthew Stone
Acting Deputy Director-General, Regulation and Assurance Branch
for Director-General

Contact: Matthew Stone S9(2)(a)

To: Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries

Cc: Prime Minister
Minister for Economic Development
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Trade
Associate Minister for Primary Industries

Date: 9 October 2014

Export of Sheep to Saudi Arabia

Purpose

1. This Aide Memoire is to provide you with information in relation to an upcoming export of sheep from New Zealand to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Key Points

2. A Singapore Airlines charter flight carrying 1000 pregnant breeding ewes is due to depart New Zealand for Saudi Arabia on Saturday 11 October as part of the Agri-Hub Project, under the New Zealand-Al Khalaf food security partnership.

S9(2)(j)

3. The media has reported the death of 174 sheep on a Singapore Airlines charter last week from Australia to Singapore. As a result officials, the private sector provider Brownrigg Agriculture and Saudi partners Al Khalaf Group have reviewed all arrangements for the flight with a view to mitigating risk. Greater detail is provided below, together with talking points for use if questions are raised about the New Zealand flight by the media.

Security Level – In Confidence

4.

The New Zealand flight will be different in almost every respect; it will transport no more than 1000 high-value breeding ewes in custom built single and double tier crates with on-board water available. Key points of difference and risk mitigation include:

- b. Custom built crates with unique features to improve animal welfare performance, in contrast to the standard crates used on the Australian flight.
- c. Fewer animals minimizes the risk of overloading the aircraft ventilation system and the crate loading configuration will include central access to improve airflow.
- d. A veterinarian and experienced stockmen will accompany the flight throughout to monitor animal welfare.

Background

- 5. Agreement between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the Ministry of Agriculture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Export of Livestock from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia for Breeding Purposes was signed in March 2014. The agreement includes specific requirements for cattle and sheep.
- 6. Requirements for the export of Sheep for Breeding to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were issued by notice under the Animal Products Act on 1 August 2014. These requirements cover animal health certification and official assurance specifications.
- 7. The Animal Welfare Act requires all exporters to obtain an Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC) issued prior to the export.
- 8. After the promulgation of the Customs Export Prohibition (Livestock for Slaughter) Order in 2007, MPI introduced a central assessment of AWEC applications prior to the issuing of the AWEC at the port of departure.
- 9. Applications for air shipments of livestock are assessed against the regulations published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR)).
- 10. These regulations cover crate design and size, animal selection, and management practices during loading, transport and unloading.

Security Level – In Confidence

11. The New Zealand Government is supporting the development of a New Zealand agribusiness 'hub', or demonstration farm, near Dammam, Saudi Arabia - with an initial investment of NZ\$6m.
12. The agribusiness hub will showcase New Zealand's world class agri-technology. It is also expected to open up other opportunities for New Zealand in the Gulf region and potentially elsewhere in the Arab world. Delivery of the project is being led by Brownrigg Agriculture and the Saudi Al Khalaf Group. More than a dozen New Zealand agri-tech companies are already involved.
13. Farming systems in the Gulf are currently mainly based on informal techniques. This agri-hub will introduce formal techniques of farming, as well as highlighting the expertise and products of a wide range of New Zealand companies. New Zealand's background and long history of agricultural production and technology has the potential to contribute to the food security solutions of the Gulf region.
14. As part of this project, approximately 1,000 breeding ewes are due to be air freighted from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia on 11 October.
15. This pilot research breeding programme is focused on what breeds are best suited to the conditions in Saudi Arabia as well as reproduction and lamb production. The long-term aim is to keep a self-replacing flock of high quality New Zealand ewes on the demonstration farm for breeding and ongoing research

Export of sheep to Saudi Arabia intended to depart New Zealand by air on 11 October 2014

16. There are ongoing discussions between Brownrigg Agriculture Group (the Exporter) and MPI during preparations for shipment of sheep to Saudi Arabia by air scheduled for 11 October 2014.
17. The AWEC application for the consignment of sheep was received by Animal Exports team on 1 August 2014. The in-principle AWEC or positive outcome of the central assessment was sent to the port veterinarian, who is responsible for issuing the AWEC, on 7 October 2014.
18. The application included a comprehensive transport plan to successfully manage the export including contingency planning in the event of issues.
19. The crates that will be used to house the sheep during the transport are custom built for the exporter, and have been inspected by MPI staff to ensure compliance with the IATA regulations. The crates are designed with unique features that improve the performance in terms of animal welfare outcomes in comparison to the standard designs.

Security Level – In Confidence

20. The loading plan has also been developed to offer improved animal welfare outcomes.
21. The Exporter became aware of the mortalities experienced during a recent air shipment of sheep from Australia to Singapore reported in the media through industry channels, and has been in communications with the airline (Singapore Airlines) and the Australian based exporter who suffered the mortalities reported to better understand the issues.
22. MPI will be present during the loading of the aircraft to ensure that any animal welfare issues will be addressed prior to the consignment departing.
23. The mortality rates reported on in the media represents a very unusual event and the major difference in circumstances around that consignment and the consignment planned from New Zealand mean that the development does not materially change the risks associated with the export.

Minister / Minister's Office

Seen / Referred

/ /2014

Security Level – In Confidence

Talking Points

- The New Zealand Government is supporting the development of a New Zealand agribusiness 'hub', or demonstration farm, near Dammam, Saudi Arabia - with an initial investment of NZ\$6m.
- The agribusiness hub will showcase New Zealand's world class agri-technology. It is also expected to open up other opportunities for New Zealand in the Gulf region and potentially elsewhere in the Arab world. Delivery of the project is being led by Brownrigg Agriculture and the Saudi Al Khalaf Group. More than a dozen New Zealand agri-tech companies are already involved.
- Farming systems in the Gulf are currently mainly based on informal techniques. This agri-hub will introduce formal techniques of farming, as well as highlighting the expertise and products of a wide range of New Zealand companies. New Zealand's background and long history of agricultural production and technology has the potential to contribute to the food security solutions of the Gulf region.
- As part of this project, a flock of approximately 1,000 breeding ewes is due to be air freighted from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia on 11 October.
- This pilot research breeding programme is focused on what breeds are best suited to the conditions in Saudi Arabia as well as reproduction and lamb production. The long term aim is to keep a self-replacing flock of high quality New Zealand ewes on the demonstration farm for breeding and ongoing research.
- While New Zealand ceased exporting live sheep for slaughter in 2003, exporting stock for breeding purposes is quite common.
- Animal welfare considerations are being given top priority. Approval for the export of live animals will be given when the Director General of the Ministry for Primary Industries is satisfied that conditions around animal welfare requirements have been met.

[If asked]

This week, there has been media attention in Australia due to the death of 174 sheep on a Singapore Airlines export cargo plane. What assurances are there that this won't happen to New Zealand sheep?

A comprehensive transportation plan has been prepared for this flight and approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries. Because next week's flight is long-haul and for breeding purposes, it has been designed with comfort and animal welfare as primary considerations.

Security Level – In Confidence

There will be relatively few sheep on the plane (half the number that were on the Australian flight), which will allow for comfort and good ventilation. In addition, the sheep will be accompanied on the plane by a vet, a stock manager and a research scientist who will monitor animal welfare during the flight.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

S9(2)(a)

From: Matthew Stone S9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 6:13 p.m.
To: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); S9(2)(a) (CMD); S9(2)(a)
Cc: S9(2)(a) MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Peter Bailey (Pete); S9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane
Attachments: AM14-147_Sheep to Saudi_StoneM_2.doc; ATT00002.txt

Jeff – attached is the final version. Thanks for everyone's assistance with this.

Mat

Matthew Stone BVSc MVS MANZCVS | Director Animal and Animal Products | Regulation and Assurance Branch
Ministry for Primary Industries | Pastoral House 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand
Telephone: S9(2)(a) Facsimile: 64-4-894 0662 | S9(2)(a) Web: www.mpi.govt.nz



[SEEMAIL]

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS) S9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 3:49 p.m.
To: Matthew Stone S9(2)(a) (CMD); S9(2)(a)
Cc: S9(2)(a) MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Peter Bailey (Pete); S9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Mat

Has a final version of the note gone up? Our Minister has arrived in New York and has been asking about it.

Cheers

Jeff

From: Matthew Stone S9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 9:51 a.m.
To: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); S9(2)(a) (CMD); S9(2)(a)
Cc: S9(2)(a) Alex (ECO); Peter Bailey (Pete); S9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

Thanks for your feedback Jeff. We will add ccs as suggested.

Mat

Matthew Stone BVSc MVS MANZCVS | Director Animal and Animal Products | Regulation and Assurance Branch
Ministry for Primary Industries | Pastoral House 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand
Telephone: S9(2)(a) Facsimile: 64-4-894 0662 | Mobile: S9(2)(a) Web: www.mpi.govt.nz



[SEEMAIL]

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS) S9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 9:36 a.m.
To: (CMD); S9(2)(a) (MEA)
Cc: S9(2)(a) MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Matthew Stone; Peter Bailey (Pete); Krissy Moreau
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Forgot to say, do you want to add to the CC list ministers McCully, Joyce, Groser and the PM? Or should we just share a copy via their offices?

Cheers

Jeff

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 9:32 a.m.
To: S9(2)(a); S9(2)(a) (MEA)
Cc: S9(2)(a) MATHESON, Alex (ECO); Matthew Stone; Peter Bailey (Pete); S9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

Hi All

I've added a 'key points' section up front. Feedback from our minister (not on this paper specifically, but in general) has been that he knows/has seen all of the background material and wants to focus on our impending shipment, the risk highlighted by the Australian experience, and what is being done to ensure it will not happen in our case.

Happy to discuss further.

Cheers

Jeff

Jeff Langley

Manager, Australia Division (Acting Manager, Middle East & Africa Division)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ph: +

M: + S9(2)(a)

NEW ZEALAND
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2014-16

From: S9(2)(a) (mailto: S9(2)(a))
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 4:02 p.m.
To: (CMD); S9(2)(a)
Cc: S9(2)(a); MATHESON, Alex (ECO); LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); Matthew Stone; Peter Bailey (Pete);
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

S9(2)(a)

Attached is the draft AM we are preparing for the Ministers for your comment. I have included the talking points below as background information where the content was not already covered by paragraphs I had included prior to receiving this.

We had been advised that the consignment will be accompanied by 4 attendants yet you have mentioned only 3 in your email. Are you confident of your numbers, or should we confirm with Brownrigg? At this stage I have left the number as 4, in accordance with the AWEC application received by MPI.

Please can you have a look and provide comments or suggestions using track changes. The AM is due tomorrow, and still has to go through our approval process, so can I please have any comments by tomorrow 9:00am.

Regards

S9(2)(a)

S9(2)(a)

Senior Adviser, Animal Exports

Animal & Animal Products | Regulation & Assurance

Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Ahu Matua | Pastoral House 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand

Telephone: (S9(2)(a)) | Facsimile: 64-4-894 0733 | Mobile: S9(2)(a) | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz

From: S9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 1:34 p.m.

To: S9(2)(a) Matthew Stone; LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); Peter Bailey - WLG S9(2)(a)

Cc: S9(2)(a) S9(2)(a) MATHESON, Alex (ECO); S9(2)(a) Dana Findlay -DXB

Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Afternoon team

Please find reactive talking points on this issue that can be added to the AM being prepared by MPI.

As noted – these are all based on the previously agreed messages, but we've cut them down a little to suit the current circumstances.

Please let me know if there are any errors of fact – or if we have been too explicit in anything.

Thanks

S9(2)(a)

Talking points

The New Zealand Government is supporting the development of a New Zealand agribusiness 'hub', or demonstration farm, near Dammam, Saudi Arabia - with an initial investment of NZ\$6m.

- The agribusiness hub will showcase New Zealand's world class agri-technology. It is also expected to open up other opportunities for New Zealand in the Gulf region and potentially elsewhere in the Arab world. Delivery of the project is being led by Brownrigg Agriculture and the Saudi Al Khalaf Group. More than a dozen New Zealand agri-tech companies are already involved.
- Farming systems in the Gulf are currently mainly based on informal techniques. This agri-hub will introduce formal techniques of farming, as well as highlighting the expertise and products of a wide range of New Zealand companies. New Zealand's background and long history of agricultural production and technology has the potential to contribute to the food security solutions of the Gulf region.

- As part of this project, a flock of approximately 1,000 breeding ewes is due to be air freighted from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia on 11 October.
- This pilot research breeding programme is focused on what breeds are best suited to the conditions in Saudi Arabia as well as reproduction and lamb production. The long-term aim is to keep a self-replacing flock of high quality New Zealand ewes on the demonstration farm for breeding and ongoing research.
- While New Zealand ceased exporting live sheep for slaughter in 2003, exporting stock for breeding purposes is quite common. In 2013, New Zealand exported over 36,000 live cattle and 2,800 live horses for breeding purposes.
- Animal welfare considerations are being given top priority. Approval for the export of live animals will be given when the Director General of the Ministry for Primary Industries is satisfied that conditions around animal welfare requirements have been met.

[If asked]

This week, there has been media attention in Australia due to the death of 174 sheep on a Singapore Airlines export cargo plane. What assurances are there that this won't happen to New Zealand sheep?

A comprehensive transportation plan has been prepared for this flight and approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries. Because next week's flight is long-haul and for breeding purposes it has been designed with comfort and animal welfare as primary considerations.

There will be relatively few sheep on the plane (half the number that were on the Australian flight), which will allow for comfort and good ventilation. In addition, the sheep will be accompanied on the plane by a vet, a stock manager and a research scientist who will monitor animal welfare during the flight.

/ENDS

S9(2)(a)

Communications Account Manager
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aotearoa

T: S9(2)(a) M: S9(2)(a) E: S9(2)(a)

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901
Wellington 5045
New Zealand

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.nzembassy.com | www.aid.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 12:24 p.m.

To: Matthew Stone; LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); Peter Bailey -WLG;

Cc: S9(2)(a) MATHESON, Alex (ECO);

(CMD)

Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

Hi All,

FYI: please find attached the most up to date versions of the Q&A's and Comms plan that NZTE, MFAT and MPI have prepared in advance.

S9(2)(a) – MFAT comms – is pulling together back pockets for Ministers using these documents and further information relating specifically to the mass sheep death today.

This will be circulated ASAP.

Kindest,

S9(2)(a)

| Principal Adviser

Sector Partnerships and Programmes

Ministry for Primary Industries

Pastoral House | 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand

Telephone: S9(2)(a) | Facsimile: 64 4 894 0300 | Mobile: S9(2)(a) | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz



[seemail]

From: Matthew Stone

Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 12:16 p.m.

To: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); Peter Bailey -WLG

Cc: S9(2)(a); MATHESON, Alex (ECO); S9(2)(a)
(CMD); S9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

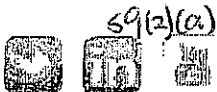
Thanks Jeff.

S9(2)(a)

S9(2)(a) and S9(2)(a) are liaising on this using the comms plan we have been jointly (MPI, MFAT and NZTE) preparing. Will be good to have something tailored for the Ministers from this to append to the AM.

Mat

Matthew Stone BVSc MVS MANZCVS | Director Animal and Animal Products | Regulation and Assurance Branch
Ministry for Primary Industries | Pastoral House 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand
Telephone: ? | Facsimile: 64-4-894 0662 | Mobile: ? | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz



[SEEMAIL]

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); S9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 12:03 p.m.

To: Matthew Stone; Peter Bailey -WLG

Cc: S9(2)(a); MATHESON, Alex (ECO); S9(2)(a)
(CMD)

Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Mat, sounds good.

At our end S9(2)(a) and S9(2)(a) are already refreshing some of the media lines that were prepared some time ago and starting to turn these into "if asked" talking points which could be attached to the note for Ministers.

Happy to discuss and/or meet if that would be useful.

Jeff

Jeff Langley

Manager, Australia Division (Acting Manager, Middle East & Africa Division)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ph: + S9(2)(a).

M:

59(2)(a)



NEW ZEALAND
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2015-16



From: Matthew Stone

59(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 11:44 a.m.

To: Peter Bailey -WLG

Cc:

59(2)(a)

LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); MATHESON, Alex (ECO)

Subject: Re: Mass sheep death on export plane

MPI will take lead on a joint brief to both Mins and you will see a draft for comment later today. Due tomorrow.

Mat

Matthew Stone

Director Animal and Animal Products

Ministry for Primary Industries

On 8/10/2014, at 11:35 am, "Peter Bailey -WLG"

59(2)(a)

wrote:

Thanks Matt

I and NZTE have been fully in the loop all the way through.

Besides all the other work being done by Brownrigg (and others) I have suggested to David Brownrigg's operational team that a:

1. A check list be drafted up of all the possible activities, the mitigation and who is responsible that could occur on the flight
2. A second portable electric air can be on board as a stand by as an option

As you are now fully aware everything possible is being done to meet the requirements demanded.

I assume Jeff, the Minister McCully's brief will be copied to the other relevant Ministers as has been done previously.

Cheers

Peter

Peter Bailey

Project Manager

Agribusiness Hub

59(2)(a)

w nzte.govt.nz

<image005.png>

Level 24, The Majestic Centre, 100 Willis Street, Wellington 6011

PO Box 2878, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

<image004.jpg>

From: Matthew Stone : s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 11:23 a.m.
To:
Cc: s9(2)(a) Peter Bailey -WLG
Subject: FW: Mass sheep death on export plane

As discussed – AM for Min Guy required providing reassurance of the mechanisms we have in place to ensure this won't happen to NZ sheep.

Work with Pete on this please, and with him consider whether joint AM to Min Guy and McCully.

Mat

Matthew Stone BVSc MVS MANZCVS | Director Animal and Animal Products | Regulation and Assurance Branch
Ministry for Primary Industries | Pastoral House 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand
Telephone: | Facsimile: 64-4-894 0662 | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
<image006.png> <image007.png> <image008.png>

[SEEMAIL]

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 11:18 a.m.
To: Matthew Stone
Subject: FW: Mass sheep death on export plane

From: s9(2)(a) [DPMC] [mailto:s9(2)(a)]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 10:55 a.m.
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Mass sheep death on export plane

FYI – just through from MPAT

Hon McCully's office told us that their Minister had lead on any media queries – does that align with your expectations?

s9(2)(a)
From: s9(2)(a) [DPMC] PM's Foreign Policy Adviser
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 10:51 a.m.
To: s9(2)(a) [DPMC]
Subject: FW: Mass sheep death on export plane

[SEEMAIL]

59(2)(a)

Background on where the sheep issue lies, FYI.

Will check where we are on media points.

Cheers

59(2)(a)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS) ;

Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 10:47 a.m. Private Secretaries MPA FIMAT

To: I 59(2)(a) I 59(2)(a)

MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY); 1

Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

(MEA); CORRY, Bede (DS APE); [DPMC]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi All

I've spoken with Brownrigg agriculture this morning.

In terms of our flight:

- Singapore Airlines (SQ) has received advice from its office in Jeddah that Saudi Civil Aviation has cleared the flight.
- There is still a final piece of paper to come from Civil Aviation but SQ is working on the basis that the flight is approved and is focused on logistical issues (they have contracted a ground handler at Hofuf airport and are checking handling equipment with the possibility that some may need to be moved from another nearby airport).
- Brownrigg are proceeding full steam ahead with stock and transport preparations for the flight.

In terms the sheep deaths on the Australia/Singapore flight last week:

- Brownrigg became aware of this issue through industry channels a couple of days ago.
- They immediately put a formal request to Singapore seeking details and assurances that this will not happen again. 59(2)(a)(i) They have also been in touch with the Australian exporter.
- They have received information from SQ about the Australian flight which gives a high degree of comfort that our flight is designed with much higher safety margins. (the Australian flight was 2000 sheep destined for slaughter, some in triple crates. Our flight is 1000 sheep in single and double crates, allowing for central access between the crates and greater airflow. Because our flight is long-haul and for breeding purposes it has been designed with comfort and animal welfare as primary considerations).
- Our flight design fully meets MPI standards and has been approved by MPI.
- Final assessment of the flock pre-flight will determine final numbers, but it is possible the actual number of sheep on the flight could drop back to 900 to provide an extra margin of comfort.
- Brownrigg has also confirmed with SQ that we will not be using the same freight aircraft, as an additional precaution.
- The mortality rate on the Australian flight was very unusual, another flight landing in Singapore from Ireland on the same day suffered one death.

While the timing of the Australian flight could hardly be worse, it is clear that it was a very different shipment and should not materially impact on the risk assessment for our own flight.

59(2)(a)
Private Secretary
to Hon
Tim
Groser

From: Private Secretary MFA 59(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 9:39 a.m.
To: 59(2)(a); I: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); 59(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Mass sheep death on export plane

Thanks - just flicked this up to as well.
59(2)(a) 59(2)(a)
Jeff - any update on Brownrigg/SQ yet? MFA was asking again this morning for an update.

59(2)(a)

From: 59(2)(a) - Private Secretary to Hon Tim Groser
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 9:38 a.m.
To: 59(2)(a); I: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS); 59(2)(a)
Subject: Mass sheep death on export plane - Private Secretaries to the
Hon Tim Groser and Hon Murray

Not the best headline.... this was Aussie sheep on the way to Singapore. McCull

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/sheep/10592150/Mass-sheep-death-on-export-plane>

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S9(2)(a)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 9:58 a.m.
To: S9(2)(a) - Private Secretaries for Hon Tim Groser & Hon Murray McCully; CORRY, Bede [DPMC]
(DS APE); MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY); LEWIS, Greg (RIY)
S9(2)(a)
Cc: CRAIG, Sarah (CEO Office)
Subject: Saudi Sheep

Air traffic rights and flight operational clearances for the charter flight have been confirmed with Saudi Authorities and Singapore Airlines. So in terms of last week's issues, we are now good to go.

As for this week's issues, a note for ministers is being prepared by MPI with MEAT input, focusing on risks highlighted by the Australian flight and steps being taken to mitigate those risks for the NZ flight. The note should go up around midday.

Rest of document released
in earlier email chain.

8/10/19

Back pocket talking points – Saudi Arabia agri-hub

Developed for MFA and PMO on 8 Oct. Based on the Comms Strategy and back pocket Q and As in GDM.

Talking points

- The New Zealand Government is supporting the development of a New Zealand agribusiness 'hub', or demonstration farm, near Dammam, Saudi Arabia - with an initial investment of NZ\$6m.
- The agribusiness hub will showcase New Zealand's world class agri-technology. It is also expected to open up other opportunities for New Zealand in the Gulf region and potentially elsewhere in the Arab world. Delivery of the project is being led by Brownrigg Agriculture and the Saudi Al Khalaf Group. More than a dozen New Zealand agri-tech companies are already involved.
- Farming systems in the Gulf are currently mainly based on informal techniques. This agri-hub will introduce formal techniques of farming, as well as highlighting the expertise and products of a wide range of New Zealand companies. New Zealand's background and long history of agricultural production and technology has the potential to contribute to the food security solutions of the Gulf region.
- As part of this project, a flock of approximately 1,000 breeding ewes is due to be air freighted from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia on 11 October.
- This pilot research breeding programme is focused on what breeds are best suited to the conditions in Saudi Arabia as well as reproduction and lamb production. The long-term aim is to keep a self-replacing flock of high quality New Zealand ewes on the demonstration farm for breeding and ongoing research.
- While New Zealand ceased exporting live sheep for slaughter in 2003, exporting stock for breeding purposes is quite common. In 2013, New Zealand exported over 36,000 live cattle and 2,800 live horses for breeding purposes.
- Animal welfare considerations are being given top priority. Approval for the export of live animals will be given when the Director General of the Ministry for Primary Industries is satisfied that conditions around animal welfare requirements have been met.

[If asked]

This week, there has been media attention in Australia due to the death of 174 sheep on a Singapore Airlines export cargo plane. What assurances are there that this won't happen to New Zealand sheep?

A comprehensive transportation plan has been prepared for this flight and approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries. Because next week's flight is long-haul and for breeding purposes it has been designed with comfort and animal welfare as primary considerations.

There will be relatively few sheep on the plane (half the number that were on the Australian flight), which will allow for comfort and good ventilation. In addition, the sheep will be accompanied on the plane by a vet, a stock manager and a research scientist who will monitor animal welfare during the flight.

/ENDS

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 1:27 p.m.
To:
Cc: 59(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Saudi sheep - media lines

Hi gusy

These look good. It does look like a lot of points, so I've folded a couple together.

The only additional point I think we should make is to introduce the concept of private sector delivery, this will also serve as a point of risk mitigation in case of unforeseen negative development.

Have a look. 59(2)(a) happy for you to share with MPI to append to the note for Ministers they are drafting.

This is all on an "if asked" basis, as there is no intention to put out a pre-shipment statement or to take a more proactive stance on media engagement (59(2)(g)(i)).

Talking points

- The New Zealand Government is supporting the development of a New Zealand agribusiness 'hub', or demonstration farm, near Dammam, Saudi Arabia - with an initial investment of NZ\$6m.
- The agribusiness hub will showcase New Zealand's world class agri-technology. It is also expected to open up other opportunities for New Zealand in the Gulf region and potentially elsewhere in the Arab world. Delivery of the project is being led by Brownrigg Agriculture and the Saudi Al Khalaf Group. More than a dozen New Zealand agri-tech companies are already involved.
- Farming systems in the Gulf are currently mainly based on informal techniques. This agri-hub will introduce formal techniques of farming, as well as highlighting the expertise and products of a wide range of New Zealand companies. New Zealand's background and long history of agricultural production and technology has the potential to contribute to the food security solutions of the Gulf region.
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- This pilot research breeding programme is focused on what breeds are best suited to the conditions in Saudi Arabia as well as reproduction and lamb production. The long-term aim is to keep a self-replacing flock of high quality New Zealand ewes on the demonstration farm for breeding and ongoing research.
- While New Zealand ceased exporting live sheep for slaughter in 2003, exporting stock for breeding purposes is quite common. In 2013, New Zealand exported over 36,000 live cattle and 2,800 live horses for breeding purposes.
- Animal welfare considerations are being given top priority. Approval for the export of live animals will be given when the Director General of the Ministry for Primary Industries is satisfied that conditions around animal welfare requirements have been met.

If asked

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A comprehensive transportation plan has been prepared for this flight and approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Because next week's flight is long-haul and for breeding purposes it has been designed with comfort and animal welfare as primary considerations.

There will be relatively few sheep on the plane (half the number that were on the Australian flight), which will allow for comfort and good ventilation.

In addition, the sheep will be accompanied on the plane by a vet, a stock manager and a research scientist who will monitor animal welfare during the flight.

/ENDS

s9(2)(a)

Communications Account Manager
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901
Wellington 5045
New Zealand

www.mfa.govt.nz | www.mta.govt.nz | www.mta.govt.nz | www.mta.govt.nz

Remainder of document
withheld under section
s9(2)(g)(i)

S9(2)(a)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 12:05 p.m.
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Joint AM Sheep to Saudi

S9(2)(a) - Private Secretary to Hon Murray McCully

Thanks, MPI are taking the lead on a note.
The system is humming.

From: S9(2)(a) - Private Secretary to Hon Murray McCully
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 11:56 a.m.
To: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Cc: S9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Joint AM Sheep to Saudi

VI. Not sure that I would have categorised this as something that MFA has asked for, but seems like things are in train nevertheless.

S9(2)(a)

From: S9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 11:27 a.m.
To: 'Ministerials'
Cc: Matthew Stone; S9(2)(a) 'DPMC'; Bill de la Mare; S9(2)(a)
Subject: Joint AM Sheep to Saudi

Hi Matt

As discussed Ministers McCully and Guy would like a combined AM update on Sheep to Saudi with talking points.

If Langley's email from this morning has the main points we'll want the Ministers to be able to cover in addition to background notes - as this is likely to be passed to the PM tomorrow.

AM due tomorrow.

S9(2)(a)

| Private Secretary - Agriculture | Office of Hon Nathan Guy
Parliament Buildings | Wellington |

S9(2)(a)

Out of Scope

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 5:48 p.m.
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Saudi sheep - media lines

s9(2)(a) could you have a crack at this from home and then send through to me? I assume you will have access to the media lines that were worked up over a year ago?

Cheers
Jeff

From: s9(2)(a) - Private Secretary for Hon Murray McCully
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 5:35 p.m.
To: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
:
[DPMC]
Subject: Saudi sheep - media lines To s9(2)(a) - Private Secretary for Hon Murray McCully

[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]

Hi Jeff

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
I've had a chat with and about "in case asked" media lines for the Saudi sheep shipment. I can't remember off the top of my head what media lines were agreed in the comms strategy we talked about today, but we suspect that these would have to be updated in any case.

Would it be possible for MEA (and NZTE/GPO?) to please provide some back pocket points in case the sheep shipment is raised with Ministers? Shorter is better. DPMC are keen to provide these to PMO as well for the PM.

Thanks in advance.

s9(2)(a)

LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Monday, 6 October 2014 4:11 p.m.
To: MacMASTER, Hamish (RIY)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: SAUDI ARABIA: LIVE SHEEP FOR BREEDING IMPORTATION
COMPLICATION: UPDATE 5/10/14

Top work Hamish. A very good result, due in no small part to some deft diplomacy from you and the team.

From: RIYADH
Sent: Monday, 6 October 2014 2:27 a.m.
To: RIYADH; MEA; TND; ECO

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: SAUDI ARABIA: LIVE SHEEP FOR BREEDING IMPORTATION COMPLICATION:
UPDATE 5/10/14

[RESTRICTED]

Summary

- Post has received notification from the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture that the live sheep export by air may proceed. The authorisation allows for 1100 sheep to be imported, by air, into Houfoof regional airport.

Action

Attached is a copy of the authorisation issued by Ministry of Agriculture that will allow the air shipment of live sheep animals to proceed as scheduled.

Report

RIY FMs of 30/9/14, 1/10/14, and 3/10/14 refer.

Late last night (4/10/14), Deputy Agriculture Minister Al Noit rang HOM to advise that his Ministry were now liaising with the General Authority for Civil Aviation (GACA) on the technical details of the shipment.

We thanked the Deputy Minister for his and his Minister's assistance over Eid, but noted the (NZT) Monday deadline by which a decision needed to be taken with regard to whether we proceed with the flight.

2 Following several more discussions with the Saudi investor Hmood Al Khalaf and his agent George Assaf in Australia this morning (5/10/14), Al Khalaf has just received a copy of the **authorisation issued by Ministry of Agriculture that will allow the air shipment of live sheep animals to proceed.**

3 Assaf is currently finalising these flight details with SQ Headquarters. He has also been in contact with Brownrigg in New Zealand and Singapore airlines officials. He is delighted with the

outcome and that the shipment can proceed as planned.

36(b)

4 We attach a copy of the authorisation and the Embassy's English translation. We also reproduce the English translation at the conclusion of this FM for those checking this message on blackberry.

5 With regard to the proposed 13/10 - 14/10 visit by Special Envoy Alex Matheson and NZTE Peter Bailey, we are working on the basis of this proceeding to the Kingdom as previously planned in light of the approved flight.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF NOTE:

"Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Agriculture
(274)
Department of Animal and plant quarantine

Subject: Sheep import via Al Houfoof regional airport

Please be upon you

Referring to your faxed letter dated 11/12/1435H requesting the permission to import (1100) sheep from New Zealand for breeding purposes via Al Houfoof regional airport, we would like to advise you that there is no objection to importing the sheep according to the above mentioned.

Furthermore, you should coordinate with the General Authority for Civil Aviation in addition to the airport and customs authorities. Please note that the GCC law and executive orders of animal quarantine will be implemented. The consignment will also be subject to all the health and vet conditions upon arrival to the entry point.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Director General
Department of Animal and plant quarantine

59(2)(a)

ENDS

From: RIYADH
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2014 2:32 p.m.
To: MEA; TND; ECO
Cc:

69(2)(a)

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: SAUDI ARABIA: LIVE SHEEP FOR BREEDING IMPORTATION COMPLICATION: UPDATE 3/10/14

[RESTRICTED]

Report

- Post is maintaining close daily contact with the Saudi Minister of Agriculture, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Saudi investor Sheikh Hmood Al Khalaf.
- Agriculture officials advise they are doing all they can to have the Decree issued, and the Saudi government shut down for the Eid Al Adhar holiday. Deputy Minister suggests it is most likely the Decree will be forthcoming after the government reopens on 12 October.
- We note the new deadline of 5pm Monday to decide if the air shipment will proceed. We will report again with updates on our Sunday.

Action

For information.

Summary

RIY FMs of 30/9/14 and 1/10/14, and various ECO/MEA/RIY emails refer.

Since our last report, Post has been in daily contact with Saudi Ministry of Agriculture and Saudi investors.

66(a)

Yesterday (2/10/14) HOM spoke again with reiterating to the Saudi side that New Zealand would need to take a decision on our Saturday on whether the flight can proceed (based on the contractual arrangement with Singapore airlines). We note that this deadline has now been extended to Monday 5 pm NZT (Langley emails of Oct 2 & 3 refer).

66(a)

3 HOM has also spoken both days with investor Hmood Al Khalaf who is also in daily contact with Minister Balghunaim. He confirmed the Minister was seeking regular updates from the Royal Court.

56(a)

4 Post will contact Minister Balghunaim on Sunday and seek a further update. We will report the outcome of those discussions prior to your Monday deadline.

56(a)

ENDS

From: RIYADH

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 3:06 p.m.

To: MEA; TND; ECO

Cc:

59(2)(a)

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE/ SAUDI ARABIA: LIVE SHEEP FOR BREEDING IMPORTATION COMPLICATION

[RESTRICTED]

Out of Scope

NYK: Please pass to MFA's party

RIY FM of 30/9/14 refers.

56(a)

5b(a)

ENDS

From: RIYADH

Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 4:39 p.m.

To: MEA; TND; ECO

Cc:

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: SAUDI ARABIA: LIVE SHEEP FOR BREEDING IMPORTATION COMPLICATION

Importance: High

[RESTRICTED]

NOT FOR CABLE EXCHANGE

Summary

Action

NYK: Please pass to MFA's party.

Report

Over the weekend, Post learnt from Special Envoy for Government Commercial Partnerships that Singapore Airlines had advised of a possible complication regarding the air shipment next month to Saudi Arabia of sheep for breeding purposes. The air shipment, the first of its kind to the Kingdom, was scheduled to arrive in Dammam on 12 October.

2 Upon learning the news, Post immediately contacted Sheikh Hmood Al Khalaf the Saudi investor (Importer of the sheep and significant investor in the Dammam Agrihub project) to ascertain how the Embassy could best assist. Al Khalaf advised he had already been in direct contact with the Saudi Minister of Agriculture, Balghunaim,

Remainder of document withheld 5b(a)

LANGLEY, Jeff (MEA)

From: LANGLEY, Jeff (AUS)
Sent: Monday, 6 October 2014 9:27 a.m.
To: s9(2)(a) Private Secretary to Minister
Cc: s9(2)(a) (MEA)
Subject: FW: FORMAL MESSAGE: SAUDI ARABIA: LIVE SHEEP FOR BREEDING IMPORTATION
COMPLICATION: UPDATE 5/10/14
Attachments: MIN AG TPN 051014.pdf; MIN AG NOTE/EMBASSY TRANSLATION.docx

Just to let you know that in light of this good news the next step will be for the governance group to meet by teleconference at 4:00pm (NZT) to confirm that we are all go. This will include feedback from Brownrigg that Singapore Airlines is happy with the letter issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and has been able to extract from Civil Aviation etc the consequent clearances that they need for the flight to happen.

Released in earlier email chain