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# Forensic Testing Of Schapelle Corby's Boogie Board Bag And The Marijuana Found Within

An Independent Report

The Expendable Project  
[www.expendable.tv](http://www.expendable.tv)

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 FORENSIC TESTING & MARIJUANA**

The marijuana found in Schapelle Corby's bag was central to Schapelle Corby's prospects of proving her innocence. This was particularly the case, given the impediments and obstructions which prevented her lawyers from collecting other primary evidence, such as CCTV footage.

Marijuana can be forensically tested. This can reveal who has grown it, handled it, and packed it. Whilst the packaging is particularly useful with respect to the latter, the marijuana itself can also hold valuable clues.

Marijuana can be tested for country and region of origin, which in Schapelle's Corby's situation was a vital matter. For example, if it was Indonesian, she would have had to be acquitted and released.

In a case as significant as this one, formal forensic testing of the marijuana should have been a priority of the prosecution, and certainly of the court itself. It should also have been a priority of the Australian government, in representing the interests of one of its citizens.

But it wasn't. The only party which pursued the issue was Schapelle Corby herself, and her lawyers.

## 1.2 SCHAPELLE CORBY'S PURSUIT OF FORENSIC TESTS

From the beginning, Schapelle Corby instinctively understood that the boogie board bag itself was central to her fate. At the airport, she immediately asked for the bags to be weighed, to demonstrate that they were 4.2kg heavier than when she departed Brisbane.

Her requests were refused.

She increasingly realized that the bags and the marijuana might hold vital clues regarding the source of the drugs, such as fingerprints or DNA, but her efforts to prevent Indonesian court officials and others from handling the bag and contaminating it also failed.



Regardless, she continued to use every means at her disposal to seek to have the evidence properly examined, and particularly, to have the marijuana tested for country of origin.

## Introduction

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She urged the prosecutor, in front of a number of witnesses, to allow forensic tests and fingerprinting:



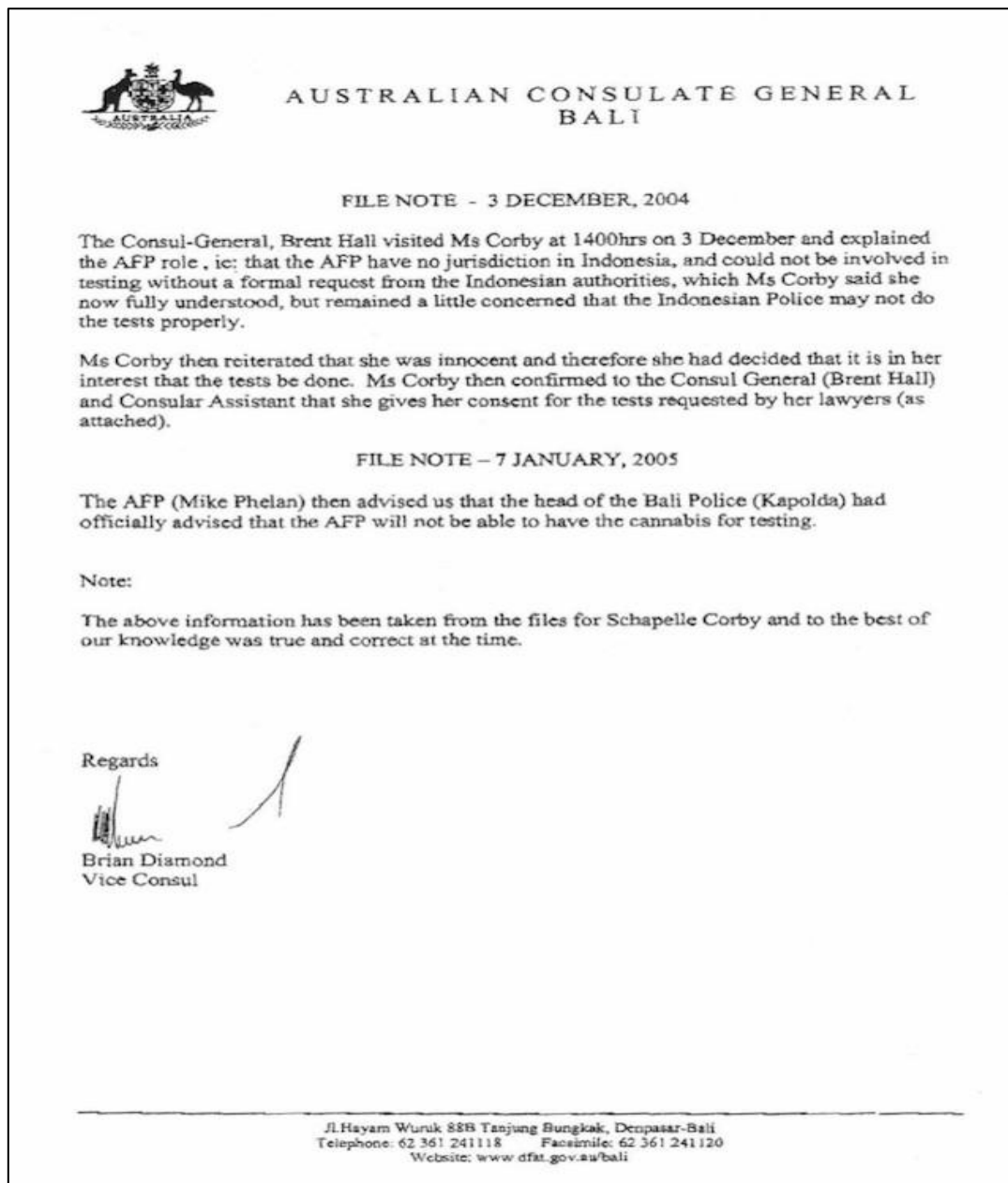
Meeting the prosecutor, Mr Ida Bagus Wiswantanu. Here I'm demanding fingerprints and other forensic tests to be taken. He seems uninterested and tells me, 'Yeah, yeah!' He is flicking through the dossier of the Polda police's so-called investigations.

*Courtesy 'My Story' Pan Macmillan*

She formally requested intervention from the Australian consulate:

## Introduction

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Her lawyers sought, at every opportunity, to force legal intervention, and appealed frequently to the Bali court for testing.

They also launched last ditch appeals to prevent the Supreme Court from burning the evidence (see video on *Expendable.TV*).

## 2. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

### 2.1 THE SURFACE

Schapelle Corby's open and public efforts to secure something, which was patently fundamental to justice, could hardly have been more high profile. They also placed the Australian government under increasing pressure to respond.

The government responded by telling the media that they had offered assistance to the Indonesian police. This was repeated in Parliament, directly by the Australian Federal Police (AFP):

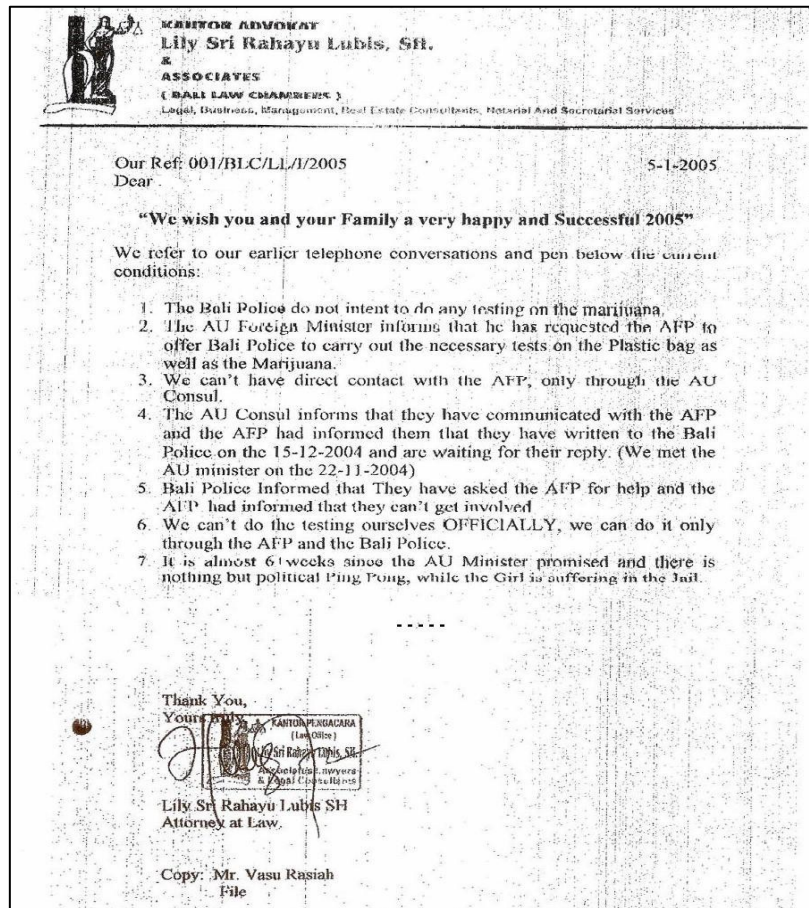
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee February 2005	A16(a)
<b>SUBJECT: Schapelle Corby</b>	
<b>Assistance provided by the AFP to the INP</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The AFP was not aware of this matter prior to the arrest of Ms Corby in October 2004.</li><li>• Following a request on 7 December 2004 from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT), the AFP wrote to the INP with a general offer of forensic assistance. This occurred before an indictment was laid against Ms Corby.</li><li>• The INP replied in writing to the AFP on 17 January 2005 and advised the brief against Ms Corby is now in the hands of Indonesian prosecutors and, as such, is no longer a police matter.</li></ul>	

The police in Indonesia, however, claimed a rather different version of events, as reported by AAP:





Schapelle Corby's lawyer stated that the Bali Police had actually asked for help, and that the AFP had rejected the approach:



Light is shed upon these apparent contradictions through examination of the government's own correspondence.



## 2.2 CHRONOLOGY

The government's internal documentation referred to Schapelle Corby's efforts to secure testing as early as November 2004. The following is an extract from a DFAT 'Talking Points' brief dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2004:

*On 1 November, a/n's lawyer wrote to the office of the assistant to the AFP Liaison officer at the Consul-General seeking AFP assistance with independent tests on the drugs to determine whether they are of Australian or Indonesian origin. The AFP is responding to the lawyer directly. The AFP has advised Consular Branch it is reluctant to provide assistance without a formal request from the Indonesian police. It does not have jurisdiction and does not consider it has a role to provide technical assistance to Australian defendants.*

It is worth stating that, at the outset, the AFP's position with respect to jurisdiction was somewhat misleading.

Australia and Indonesia are signatories to a treaty known as *The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act*, under the provisions of which one nation can request evidential and other support from the other, for crimes committed within its borders. As Indonesia was alleging that a crime had been sourced in Australia, the AFP could have investigated this, and the Australian government could have required access to the primary evidence, namely, the boogie board bag and its contents.

DFAT was apparently extremely keen to avoid this hot potato:

### CONSULAR-IN-CONFIDENCE

● A formal request from Ms Corby's lawyers for AFP assistance has been made directly to the AFP

— should contact AFP on its response.

By the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004, however, DFAT's internal position had hardened, as follows:

On 1 November, Ms Corby's lawyer wrote to the office of the assistant to the AFP Liaison officer at the Consul-General seeking AFP assistance with independent tests on the drugs to determine whether they are of Australian or Indonesian origin. The AFP has responded to the lawyer directly, advising that it cannot carry out testing on the origin of the seized cannabis because its jurisdiction is limited to Australia. The AFP further advised that it could only consider such a request if it came from the Indonesian police.

## The Australian Government

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Their position, of ignoring the provisions of the MACM Act and passing responsibility to the Indonesian Police, was thus fully established.

By this time, Schapelle Corby's lawyers had travelled to Australia, desperately seeking to bypass this impediment. The media had reported this on 16<sup>th</sup> November:

She has until December the 8th to convince Bali police her bag was interfered with by drug smugglers without her knowledge.

The case will then be handed to prosecutors where it will be more difficult to challenge.

The legal team will meet with opposition foreign affairs spokesman **KEVIN RUDD** on Thursday and Foreign Minister **ALEXANDER DOWNER** next Tuesday asking for scientific help from Federal Police to determine whether the marijuana was grown in Australia.

The minutes of a meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 reveal that Foreign Minister Downer was fully aware of the importance of the testing, and that he stated clearly that the government could pursue it via a direct request:

<b>Conversation between:</b>	The Hon Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs
<b>and:</b>	Vasudevan Rasiah and Lily Sri Rahayu Lubis, Bali Law Chambers
<b>on:</b>	22 November 2004
<b>at:</b>	Electorate Office, Stirling
<b>Others present:</b>	Andrew Park, Adviser, Mr Downer's Office

Mr Rasiah said the Indonesian National Police (INP) was only testing to determine that it was cannabis. The INP would not be testing to determine its THC level, which would help identify its origin. Mr Downer said the Government could ask the INP if it could test the cannabis and the bag to find out where they came from. He could ask the AFP to do this.

However, the shortened 'brief' version of this same meeting repositioned this clear statement entirely differently, re-aligning it with what appeared to be DFAT's established policy:

## CONSULAR IN CONFIDENCE



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### Meeting B1

FOR: MR DOWNER  
(FOR ACTION)

MR BILLSON  
(FOR INFORMATION)

From: Simeon Gilding, AS CNB, x3013

Contact: Simeon R Gilding, AS CNB, x3013

YOUR MEETING WITH: MR VASU RASIH - AT 1100 ON 22 NOVEMBER

- (b) The AFP has advised Ms Corby's lawyers that it has no jurisdiction in Indonesia so it cannot assist with testing the cannabis (they hope to prove it does not come from Australia) but it will consider a request from the Indonesian Police. Customs has advised the lawyers that it does not

By 29<sup>th</sup> November, DFAT had co-ordinated sufficiently to better align itself with the position of ignoring the MACM Act, and adopting a wholly reactive role of apparent impotence:

- *Mr Downer met with Ms Corby's lawyers on 22 November and he has asked the AFP to request Indonesian authorities for information on the origin of the narcotics and of the plastic bag*
  - *AFP has no jurisdiction in Indonesia and testing of drugs is a matter for the Indonesians. However, if the Indonesians require technical assistance it will be offered.*



However, a less visible channel of communication than the above, again contradicted this, by including the following:

Andrew Park  
Adviser  
Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ph: 61 2 6277 7500  
Fax: 61 2 6273 4112  
Mobile: 61 418 253 285  
Simeon Gilding

Simeon Gilding  
24/11/2004 01:00 PM

To: Andrew.Park/People/DFATL@DFATL  
cc: Charles.Farrugia/People/DFATL@DFATL, Hugh  
La/People/DFATL@DFATL  
Subject: CONSULAR-IN-CONFIDENCE: Corby case

On 22 November, Mr Downer met with the legal representatives

Schapelle Corby (Vasu Rasiah and Lily Lubis) to discuss the case. Rasiah and Lubis said they wanted to build their defence around the argument that the cannabis and its plastic wrapping did not come from Australia. They said it was illogical that anyone should take cannabis from Australia, where it attracted a much higher price, to Bali. To this end, they sought assistance from the AFP with testing the cannabis to prove its origin.

2. In response, Mr Downer undertook to ask the AFP to request information from the Indonesian Police on the origin of the narcotics and of the plastic bag and, if the Indonesians decide they would require technical assistance, respond favourably to any request. The AFP has now made informal approaches to the Indonesian Police in Bali, who have indicated they would be prepared to undertake such tests and would seek AFP assistance with this.

3. Before the AFP makes a formal approach, we would like the post to meet Ms Corby as soon as possible and seek her confirmation that this is her wish. In particular, we want to make sure that she is aware that, if the tests prove or suggest the cannabis comes from Australia, this could be used against her in the Indonesian courts.

4. If Ms Corby agrees that the AFP proceed with its approach, we would like you to advise Ms Corby's NOK in Bali (her sister Mercedes) that Ms Corby is aware of the consequences and has agreed. We will advise Ms Corby's lawyers in similar terms.

Schapelle Corby's decision, on whether to request the tests, was unequivocal:

*On 3 December, Ms Corby's legal team provided the Consul-General with a written list of tests they would like conducted to assist their case including on the origin, quality and value of the cannabis in various Australian States, the origin of the plastic bag and fingerprints on the plastic bag, boogie board bag and body board. They also sought AFP assistance with investigating baggage handlers at Brisbane and Sydney airport. The Consul-General explained that this information could be requested from the Indonesian Police but it was up to them whether they agreed to respond or seek AFP assistance.*

*Later on 3 December, Ms Corby told the Consul-General she agreed to a request for the information contained in the list passed over by her lawyers. She said she now*

**CONSULAR-IN-CONFIDENCE**

**CONSULAR-IN-CONFIDENCE**

*Corby understood the AFP role, but remained a little concerned that the Indonesian Police may not do the tests properly. She said she was innocent and therefore she had decided that it is in her interest that the tests be done. The Consul-General explained that the AFP would not be providing this information directly to her lawyers. It would request the Indonesian Police for this information and provide assistance to the Indonesian Police, if requested by them.*

**Version No. 16**

**Issued: 2000 hrs, 3 December 2004**

**Media Interest: Yes**

She not only re-enforced her original requests for testing, but her lawyers actually provided a detailed list of the specific tests required:

1. Pollen / DNA Forensic tests of the Marijuana to determine:
  - a. The origin of the Marijuana
  - b. The quality of the Marijuana
  - c. The street value of this Marijuana in various states of Australia.
2. DNA Forensic test of the plastic bag containing the marijuana to determine:
  - a. Which company produce the plastic bag
  - b. Which company distribute the plastic bag
  - c. When the plastic bag was produced and distributed
3. Finger prints of Schapelle Corby to check her police clearance in all states of Australia.
4. DNA Forensic tests on the Boogie Board Bag and the Body Board for any other finger prints which may be of the baggage handlers of Brisbane or Sydney or Denpasar airport.
5. If the Marijuana is from other parts of Australia ( Not QLD ) how the product got to QLD or where it was introduced in to Schapelle 's Bag.
6. Any other means of help they can offer to investigate this crime.
7. Investigate the persons handling the baggage of Schapelle Corby both in Brisbane and Sydney airports.

The Consulate wrote directly to the AFP on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004:





Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

7 December 2004

Federal Agent Michael Phelan  
National Manager  
Border and International Network  
Australian Federal Police  
GPO Box 401  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Phelan

You will recall that, following Mr Downer's meeting with Schapelle Corby's legal team on 22 November, he requested the Australian Federal Police ask the Indonesian National Police (INP) for information on the origin of the cannabis and of plastic bag wrapping in which it was enclosed. I understand that our colleagues have been liaising about this request.

Ms Corby has now agreed that these and other tests, listed in the attached note passed to our Consul-General by her legal team, be undertaken. The note outlines a number of tests the legal team would like conducted to assist their case including on the origin, quality and value of the cannabis in various Australian States, the origin of the plastic bag and fingerprints on the plastic bag, boogie board bag and body board. The lawyers also seek AFP assistance with investigating baggage handlers at Brisbane and Sydney airport.

Our Consul-General has been careful to explain to Ms Corby and her lawyers that the AFP is not able to provide direct assistance to Ms Corby – it has no jurisdiction in Indonesia and it has no role providing assistance to consular clients. He has explained that the AFP can only request INP provide this information and that it is up to INP whether it agrees to conduct the tests or investigations or seeks AFP assistance with them. We understand that the AFP is not capable of testing for the origin of the cannabis, but that your forensics people could facilitate these tests by seeking the services of botanists or others with relevant experience.

Against this background, I am writing to request formally that the AFP seek this information from the Indonesian National Police and provide assistance, should this be requested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rod Smith'.

Rod Smith  
First Assistant Secretary  
Public Diplomacy, Consular and Passports Division

However, DFAT centrally were simultaneously retaining the position of claimed impotence, and were setting the scene for future outcomes, as illustrated by an internal briefing document dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004:

- Following Mr Downer's meeting with Ms Corby's legal team on 22 November, he asked the AFP to request Indonesian authorities for information on the origin of the cannabis and of plastic bag wrapping *and provide assistance on this to the Indonesian Police, if requested by them*

- *the AFP is following up with the Indonesian Police – any specific questions should be directed to the AFP.*

If asked why the AFP will not provide this information directly to Ms Corby and her lawyers

- AFP not able to provide direct assistance to Ms Corby – it has no jurisdiction in Indonesia and it has no role providing assistance to consular clients
  - *it can only pursue the matter through its cooperation arrangements with the Indonesian Police.*

Schapelle Corby's lawyers continued to press. They were aware, and pointed out, that once the case had been passed from the Indonesian police to the Indonesian prosecutors, the prospects of securing testing would be substantially reduced.

This is a matter of legal process in Indonesia, and DFAT, and the Australian government, were well aware of it.

The AFP's response, however, was not to request access for testing, nor to invoke the MACM Act to require access. It was to approach the Indonesian police with a vague offer of general assistance:

*Following a formal letter of request from DFAT on 7 December, on 15 December the AFP Liaison Officer in Bali made a formal approach to the Indonesian Police. The initial approach was limited to a general offer of assistance on the Corby case. It had not explicitly requested a sample of the cannabis because this would be seen by the Indonesian Police as interference and undermine efforts to secure a sample for testing. AFP is concerned that being too explicit about the nature of the approach in our public comments will entrench Indonesian Police resistance to providing a sample.*

**Version No. 18**

**Issued: 1900 hrs, 21 December 2004**

**Media Interest: Yes**

## The Australian Government

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This had followed various government approaches to Schapelle Corby, stating that test results could damage her case. These have been interpreted by a number of analysts as efforts to delay, or to intimidate her into withdrawal.

3. Before the AFP makes a formal approach, we would like the post to meet Ms Corby as soon as possible and seek her confirmation that this is her wish. In particular, we want to make sure that she is aware that, if the tests prove or suggest the cannabis comes from Australia, this could be used against her in the Indonesian courts.

Furthermore, some observers have questioned the role of AFP Commissioner, Michael Keelty, in this scenario.

Keelty was quoted in the media as being a long term friend of the Head of the Indonesian Police in Bali, Made Pastika, whilst his apparently hostile position with respect to the Schapelle Corby case is documented in the report *'Exceptions At Australian Airports With Respect To the Schapelle Corby Case'*. He also reported directly to Christopher Ellison, whose own role is documented throughout *The Expendable Project*. His contact with, and the unknown contents of his communications with, Made Pastika, have also been queried by observers.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005 it was confirmed that the case had been passed to the Indonesian prosecutor. It was now effectively outside the jurisdiction of the Indonesian police:

Post confirmed that Ms Corby's dossier has been officially accepted by the prosecutor on 6 January 05, from this date Ms Corby's status has been changed from police detainee to prosecutor detainee. According to her lawyer, under the Indonesian criminal code Ms Corby can be held by the prosecutor for 20 days and can be extended for another 30 days. *Now that the case has been accepted by the prosecutor, the trial could commence later this month or early next month.*

Version No. 28

Issued: 1630 hrs, 10 January 2005

Media Interest: Yes



The expected consequences of this were subsequently confirmed:

### CONSULAR-IN-CONFIDENCE

*We have sought advice from our Consulate-General on whether the Prosecutor has the authority to agree to a request from Ms Corby's lawyers (supported by the Australian Government) to ask the Indonesian Police to pass over cannabis for testing by the AFP. The post's legal advisor has advised that, under Indonesian law, the Prosecutor's acceptance of the police dossier indicates full acceptance that the police have fully investigated the case. It would therefore be highly unusual and therefore unlikely for the Prosecutor to seek further information from the police at this point.*

**Version No. 22**

**Issued: 1530 hrs, 19 January 2005**

**Media Interest: Yes**

The changed situation was reflected, as follows, by a DFAT internal briefing paper:

*On 7 January, the head of the Indonesian Police in Bali (Made Pastika) advised the AFP that he would not be seeking any assistance from the AFP on the case. This confirmation has yet to be received by the AFP. AFP will formally advise Ms Corby's lawyers once this is confirmed in writing.*

*In the interim, our Consul-General has advised Ms Corby that the Indonesian Police have refused AFP assistance. On 18 January, the Courier Mail reported comments by Ms Corby's legal team accusing the AFP and DFAT of bad faith: "They promised they would help, but it was lip service all the way. They have done nothing – and now what do we have in her defence? Absolutely nothing." The same article reported that the Indonesian Police have denied that the AFP ever asked to test the cannabis. On 19 January, Sky newsreader reported an interview with mother of Ms Corby where Mrs Corby attacked the Australian Government over its lack of action over her daughter, Schapelle Corby, in gaol in Bali on charges of drug smuggling. Mrs Corby insists that her daughter is innocent and says that unless the Department of Foreign Affairs intervenes, Ms Corby will face the death penalty.*

*On 6 January, Ms Corby's dossier was officially accepted by the prosecutor. The Indonesian Police have recommended she be charged for trafficking, which can attract the death penalty. From this date Ms Corby's status has been changed from police detainee to prosecutor detainee. According to her lawyer, under the Indonesian criminal code, Ms Corby can be held by the prosecutor for 20 days and can be extended for another 30 days. The trial could commence later this month or early next month.*


# The Australian Government

The pertinent facts at this point are now clear:

- There had been no formal request by the AFP or the Australian Government to test the marijuana.
- The MACM Act had not been invoked at any stage to require access to perform testing.
- The Australian government had failed Schapelle Corby in her increasingly desperate efforts to secure testing of the primary and vital evidence.

Also, contrary to public statements made by the AFP subsequently, the following AFP briefing to Custom's Minister Ellison, clearly indicates that the Indonesian police would have received a specific testing request positively:

**PROTECTED**

  
**Australian Federal Police**  
To fight crime together and win.  
ABN: 61 663 631 143

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**Operational Briefing**

AFP Ref: 3286440

Minister  
through Deputy Commissioner

**PROSECUTION OF MS SCHAPELLE CORBY IN BALI FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**Deadline**  
Urgent.

**Issue**  
Prosecution by the Indonesian authorities of Australian national Ms Schapelle Leigh Corby for the alleged trafficking of approximately 4.2 kilograms of cannabis into Bali.

**Proposed Action**

4. Following discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the AFP informally approached the INP in Bali regarding the possibility of AFP testing the cannabis. The AFP received a favourable response to this approach.

2. Indonesian legal counsel for Ms Corby sought the assistance of the AFP in conducting tests on the cannabis allegedly found in her luggage. The AFP advised it has no jurisdiction to undertake such tests, and any requests for such testing should be made to the Indonesian authorities.

3. The AFP understands Ms Corby's legal counsel travelled to Australia to request the assistance of the Australian Government. Foreign Minister Downer met with the counsel on 22 November 2004 and agreed to examine the possibility of Australian Government assistance.

4. Following discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the AFP informally approached the INP in Bali regarding the possibility of AFP testing the cannabis. The AFP received a favourable response to this approach.

## The Australian Government

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Subsequent to this, however, the Australian government represented the situation rather differently.

For example, Alexander Downer responded to a fellow MP just days after the handover of the case to the Indonesian prosecutor, as follows:

I can confirm that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has offered testing assistance to the Indonesian police which was declined. The AFP is, therefore, unable to assist Ms Corby directly as it has no jurisdiction in Indonesia. I would suggest any further questions in relation to the AFP's involvement be directed to that agency.



## 3. THE INDONESIAN LEGAL PROCESS

### 3.1 THE BALI COURT

Despite the lack of support from the Australian government, Schapelle Corby's lawyers continued to press for testing at every opportunity during the court case itself. This was logged in various DFAT cables, for example:

TO.	Secretary
CC.	Rod Smith, FAS PCD O/R
Through.	Gillian Bird, Deputy Secretary
FM.	Simeon Gilding, Assistant Secretary, Consular Branch

During the 3 February court hearing, Ms Corby's lawyers requested the judge to order testing of the cannabis and the bags for fingerprints, but to date he has not responded.

Title:	CONSULAR - CAT 1 - ARREST, CORBY, SCHAPELLE - BL510139L
From:	Bali Sent by: Brent Hall
Date:	03/03/2005 05:01 PM ZE8
To:	PP : Canberra
Cc:	Jakarta
Topics:	CONSULAR/Case Management
Prepared by:	Brent Hall

4. The Judges again made no further comment on the defence request to order fingerprinting of the plastic bags containing the cannabis and further testing of the cannabis.

Despite constant and repeated pleas to a foreign court by an Australian citizen, to have primary and critical evidence tested, the Australian government offered no further support.

They did not invoke the MACM Act, nor did they press the issue politically.

Their silence on these matters, while frequently and openly endorsing the court proceedings, ensured that evidence, which could have proven Schapelle Corby's innocence, was never tested.



*"We have no reason to believe  
that the court is at this stage  
behaving in an inappropriate way"*  
~ Alexander Downer, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005

### 3.2 THE DESTRUCTION OF THE UNTESTED EVIDENCE

With Schapelle Corby and her lawyers still pleading for testing, and pleading for assistance from the Australian government, the Supreme Court in Indonesia ordered that the evidence should be burned. This was undertaken in March 2006.

#### Prosecutors burn Corby evidence

foreign affairs editor Peter Cave  
Updated March 17, 2006 21:01:00

**Bali prosecutors have burnt all of the physical evidence used to convict Australian woman Schapelle Corby on drug trafficking charges, despite a planned appeal.**

Corby is serving a 20-year sentence for importing marijuana.

The prosecutors have burnt the 4.2 kilograms of marijuana, the boogie board bag it was found in, the boogie board itself and Corby's flippers.

The prosecutors' office refused to save even a small part of the marijuana for DNA testing, should this become part of any future appeal.



PHOTO: Drugs burnt: Lawyers for Corby say they can

The public event attracted the attendance of the prosecutor, who was photographed apparently enjoying the proceedings:



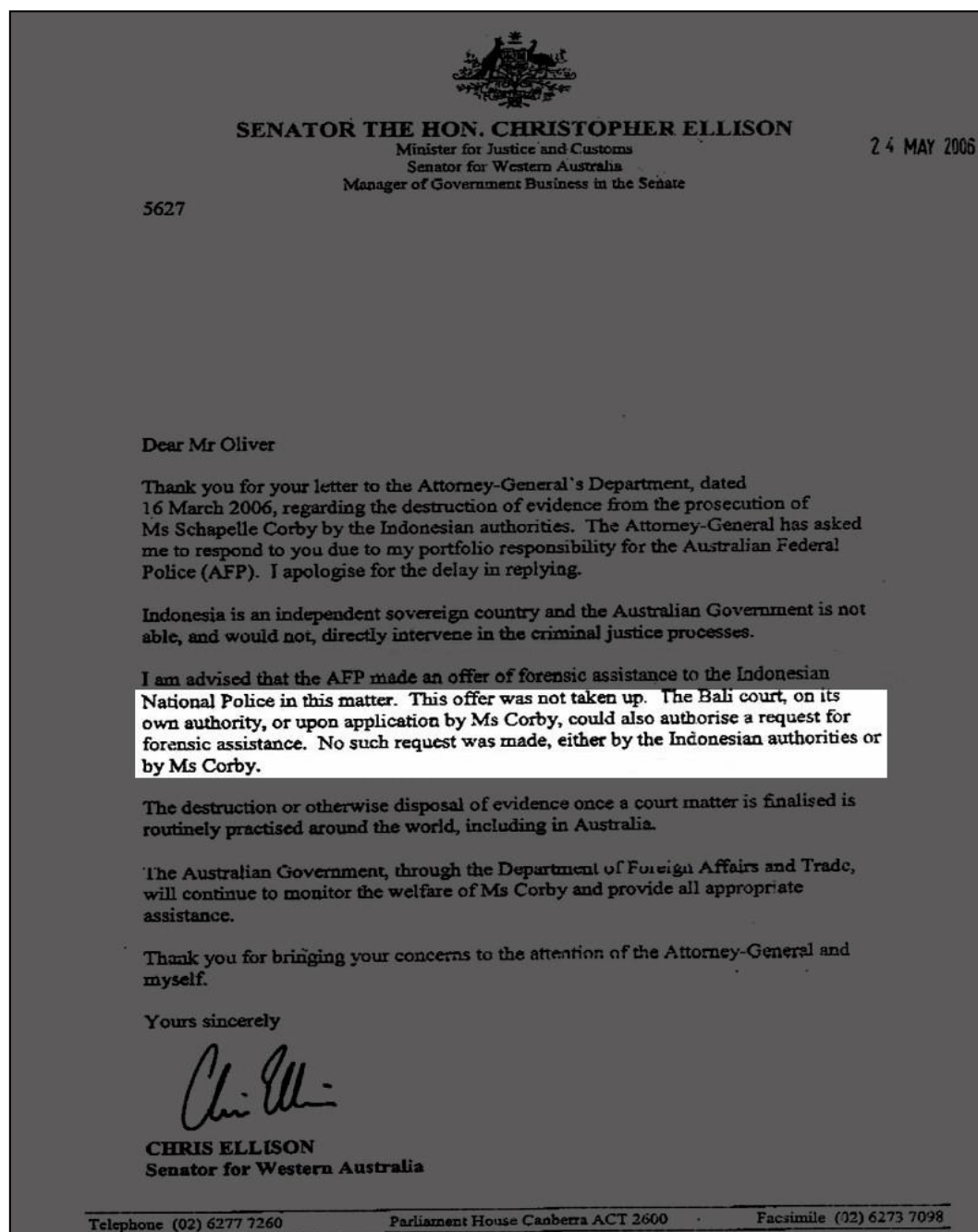
There was no condemnation by the Australian government, no protest, and no criticism whatsoever.

Schapelle Corby had lost any chance of using the central evidence to prove that she was innocent.

## 4. Australian Misrepresentation

With the passing of time, Australian politicians began to represent the events documented in this report in a completely different manner.

For example, the *Minister for Justice and Customs*, Christopher Ellison, wrote the following, in response to a complaint from a constituent:



## Australian Misrepresentation

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This clearly misrepresents the repeated public and private efforts of Schapelle Corby and her lawyers to secure forensic assistance. Mr Ellison appears to have overlooked that it is a matter of official government record that Ms Corby made frequent requests for forensic testing, including to the Bali court.

Equally, his comment, that evidence is *routinely* destroyed, appears to overlook the fact that in this case the defendant was publicly begging for it to be tested, and that her appeals process had not yet been fully exhausted.

Unfortunately, however, Ellison's version of events was subsequently taken up by other Australian politicians.

As with so many of the core issues of the Schapelle Corby case, with the Australian media neither investigating nor reporting the core facts, the Australian public have largely become oblivious to the disturbing and harrowing reality.

### FOOTNOTE

To the current date, the Australian government has refused to even acknowledge any of the serious issues documented in this report. The open abuse of Schapelle Corby's legal and human rights has failed to attract even the mildest criticism from the Australian political establishment.