Hand told to reveal case against ex-spy

THE Minister for Immigration, Mr Hand, was yesterday ordered to reveal the material used in deciding to cancel the temporary visitor's visa of former Israeli spy Mr Ari Ben-Menashe.

In the Federal Court in Sydney, Justice Hill ordered the minister, or his representative, to supply an affidavit to Mr Ben-Menashe by 12.30pm next Wednesday.

The affidavit should set out the name of the decision-maker and the material before that person at the time the decision was made to cancel the visa.

On December 28, Mr Ben-Menashe was told his visa — which was due to expire in April — had been cancelled and that he should leave Australia by January 28.

The judge also ordered a hearing for next Friday of Mr Ben-Menashe's application for interim action over his challenge against cancellation of his visa.

Mr Paul Brereton, for Mr Ben-Menashe, told the judge the only "hints" he had as to the reasons concerned doubts about his bona fides as a visitor or doubts about him not being a visitor if he was writing a book.

The grounds for Mr Ben-Menashe's application against the visa cancellation included natural justice and no evidence to justify the decision.

Further, he claimed an improper exercise of power in failing to take into account circumstances that Mr Ben-Menashe had arrangments with a publisher requiring his presence in Australia.

Mr Ben-Menashe has made sensational allegations, which he revealed to SBS Television and the Opposition spokesman on industrial relations, Mr John Howard, last year.

They include allegations that Fremantle Port was used to transport arms from the United States to Iran and Iraq in 1987 with the knowledge of "high-level Australian politicians" and that proceeds from the arms sales were laundered in Australia.

Mr Ben-Menashe also alleged that his superiors at Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, had ordered him to pay $8.5 million to an Australian political party.

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