

**QUESTION TIME BRIEF****REFUGEE APPLICANT MR ARI BEN MENASHE****ISSUES:**

- **MR BEN MENASHE, AN ISRAELI APPLICANT FOR REFUGEE STATUS, IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY CONCERNING CLAIMS OF ARMS SHIPMENTS AND PAYMENTS TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHERS IN AUSTRALIA.**

**TALKING POINTS:**

- **MR BEN MENASHE ENTERED AUSTRALIA IN APRIL, 1991 AND LODGED AN APPLICATION FOR REFUGEE STATUS ON 20 MAY.**
- **HIS APPLICATION REVOLVED AROUND CLAIMS THAT HE WOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR BREACHES OF THE ISRAELI OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT IF HE RETURNED TO ISRAEL. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN AN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVE OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ILLEGALLY TRADE IN ARMS IN THE USA.**
- **THE APPLICANT WAS ARRESTED IN NEW YORK OF ATTEMPTING THESE ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS, HELD FOR 11 MONTHS WITHOUT BAIL, TRIED AND ACQUITTED.**
- **A NEGATIVE RECOMMENDATION BY A SENIOR ASSESSMENT OFFICER WAS MADE AND A FULL ASSESSMENT COMMUNICATED TO HIM ON 12 AUGUST, 1991.**
- **AFTER CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER MATERIAL PROVIDED BY MR BEN MENASHE AT THE NATURAL JUSTICE STAGE, THE DELEGATE FORMALLY REJECTED THE CLAIM ON 23 OCTOBER 1991 AND THE APPLICANT WAS NOTIFIED. COMPLIANCE WAS INFORMED ON THE SAME DATE. THE APPLICANT HAS UNTIL 27 NOVEMBER TO REQUEST REVIEW BY THE RSRC.**