Sandy Hunting Opening Statement (23 June 2026)

1. I thank the Committee for inviting me to appear.

2. My name is Tony Sandy. I am a retired former Australian senior diplomat with 35 years national service including postings in the Income Tax Centre in [illegible], and in the Australian government in [illegible] in Japan. I was involved in the [illegible] and gave evidence to National Council Inquiries and Hearings in [illegible] and in Canberra in [illegible]. I retired from DFAT after doing [illegible] service in [illegible] at age 57. There were several articles in published media [illegible] in opposing public interest reports. My first work became [illegible].

"Weapons in Allegiance" (c. [illegible] Publishing, [illegible])

"Sandy and the Wise – the [illegible] and [illegible] years [illegible]" (self-published, [illegible])

3. I am neither an [illegible] nor a [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] in Australia or a [illegible] economy and [illegible] matters that engaged in international [illegible] and [illegible].

4. I [illegible] the Committee's inquiry into the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security in early 2015 in [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I believe my testimony contributed to the Committee's suggested amendments, which the Government and Opposition both accepted in [illegible] the legislation for [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] foreign diplomatic [illegible]. My [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

5. In those opening minutes I wish to pay tribute to the unique contributions to Western [illegible] of the "[illegible]" [illegible] of the Westminster system of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]