



BARRY FLEMING TEP

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

12th August 2006

Dear Mrs Beckett,

PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA (PJM) DON TOUHIG'S COMMONS STATEMENT

With reference to our Rebuttal (of the 31st January Ministerial Statement on the PJM) dated 21st June and in particular to the section "Changes of Mind", I write to update you on progress since the Rebuttal was sent to you. In that section of our Rebuttal we mention how Don Touhig, while still the Veterans Minister, was planning to write to the HD Committee making the case for the PJM to be worn.

- **Commons Statement - On the 6th July:** Mr Touhig summarised his case for the PJM recommendation to be amended so that the medal can be worn by British citizens. In the Commons he asked his successor as Veterans Minister, Mr Tom Watson, to continue his initiative saying:

"I hope that he will press those who advise the Queen to review the situation. I should be grateful if he said that he is prepared to do so."

- Letter from Mr Touhig dated 7th August: In this letter Mr Touhig advises us that he has written to the Veterans Minister asking him to contact the HD Committee making the case for PJM to be worn and is awaiting a reply - and *the good news is that Mr Watson has said verbally that he will do so.*

These are important steps forward in support of our request to have the Queen's permission to wear the PJM and reinforce what we said in our submissions in our Rebuttal.

I very much hope that you will take this news into account when considering our case put to you in the Rebuttal and also in our Petition to the Queen which I understand has been sent to you for consideration.

Thank you.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Barry Fleming

Encs:

Extract from Hansard 6th July 2006

Copy of letter from Don Touhig MP.