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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Office of the Director General

G.P.O. BOX NO. 5105BB,  
MELBOURNE

10510

15 October, 1968.

Dear Dick,

Your Melbourne Station has sought my views on the possibility of declassifying a Warren Commission document in which reference is made to the "Australian security service". The document in question is CD.971 dated 22nd May, 1964, together with an attachment dated 29th November, 1963.

I would recommend strongly that CD.971 and its attachment should not on any account be declassified or publicly released for reasons which include the following :

- (i) It has never been officially stated that there is a "C.I.A. Canberra Station" or that there are C.I.A. officers in Australia. This has been avoided as a point of policy.
- (ii) Publication of these facts would invoke a spate of questions by the Press and in the Parliament, which would be contrary to the national security interest, for example :
  - (a) Who approved the establishment of the "C.I.A. Canberra Station"?
  - (b) What is its composition and location?
  - (c) What is its purpose in Australia? (Allegations have already been made that C.I.A. is interfering in Australian domestic affairs.)
  - (d) With what Australian agencies does it deal? (A.S.I.S., which has not been publicly disclosed, could be brought into discussion.)
  - (e) With what other foreign agencies does the A.S.I.O. deal?
  - (f) What Ministerial control is there over such dealings?

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- (iii) Questions could be raised as to the investigation by the A.S.I.O. of the anonymous telephone calls, the validity of its quoted conclusion and the result of its further enquiries.

I am giving a copy of this letter to your Melbourne Station.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Yours *sincerely*

*Charles Spry*

(C.C.F. Spry.)

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