



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Document 1

**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5)
OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983**

Series: A5954
Control Symbol: 2366/8
Barcode: 698417
Title: Prime Minister's Visit to Defence Signals Branch
Aug 1955
Decision Maker: Alan McClelland
Designation: Senior Access Examiner
Date: 6 Dec 2021

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the Archives Act 1983 (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested item.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the item requested
- the relevant provisions of the Archives Act
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records
- information provided by Commonwealth agencies which I have relied upon in formulating my decision

Decision

After examining this item I have decided that this item is open with exceptions under 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

Three folios (1-3) have been partially exempt from public access.

The findings of facts

Section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

This item contains:

- Details which if disclosed could affect the Commonwealth's relations with the current government of a foreign country.
- Information that reveals the areas of interest of Australian intelligence agencies.
- Information relevant to the capability, sources, objectives, methods, areas of interest or operations of an Australian intelligence agency. The information is still regarded as sensitive.

Reasons for decision

International relations are dependent upon the adequate flow of information between one country and another. If sensitive information was disclosed, it could lessen the confidence of a foreign government in the Australian Government and thus damage international relations.

The public disclosure of this information could compromise the future activities of Australian intelligence agencies and impair their ability to carry out their statutory functions. It would therefore reasonably be expected to cause damage to the defence and security of the Commonwealth.

Review of decision

The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines items before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can formally appeal within 28 days of receiving a decision:

1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please read the **National Archives Fact Sheet 12** *What to do if we refuse you access* (www.naa.gov.au/about-us/publications/fact-sheets/fs12.aspx).

DM 86-35546(8)
PC 85-20344

December 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2355
Title: Joint Intelligence, Cooperation with USA, UK and Canada
Files: 1 Visit to Australia By [Exempt]
2 Cooperation in British Commonwealth Defence. Exchange of JIC Papers Between Canada and Australia
3 [Exempt] Political Assessments for External Affairs
4 MAJ GEN Sir K Strong - Discussions with ANZAM Defence Committee and Secretary's Personal Note of Discussions
5 Joint Intelligence Bureau [Exempt]
6 DSB - US Relationships - Tripartite Conference Papers
7 Visit of US and UK Representatives to DSB, Nov 1952 Tripartite Conference Sep 1953
8 Secretary [Exempt] Planning Conference 1952
9 Principles of [Exempt] Collaboration with Commonwealth Countries other than the UK
10 Joint Intelligence Organisation - Mr Casey's Proposal for Visit of Brig Dudley Clarke
11 United States Officer Attached to [Exempt]

Decision:

The item detailed above is open with exceptions which contain information that has been exempted under sub-section 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Archives Act 1983.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(a)

The material contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

- Files 1-5 The documents contain information which was obtained from foreign governments.
- Files 6-11 The files contain information on activities or arrangements of the Sigint organization of a type that is still classified and given special protection in Australia and in other countries with which Australia collaborates on these matters.
- File 7 This file contains names of members or former members of the Australian Sigint Organization.

Reasons for the Decision:

The information was passed to Australian authorities in strict confidence. The foreign governments advise that confidentiality still remains, therefore any premature public release could adversely and substantially prejudice Australia's relations with the governments with which the agreement was made. The release of such information could reasonably be expected to harm the defence, security and international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemption Claimed:

S33(1)(b)

Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

- Files 2-6, 8-11 The documents contain information provided by foreign governments on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign governments. The foreign governments continues to afford security protection to this type of material.
- File 7 This file contains names of members of an intelligence organization of another country. Release of these names would be at variance with security policy of the country concerned.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government, with detrimental effect on international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(d)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

File 7 This file contains names of members of Australian Sigint organization and an intelligence organization of another country. An understanding exists between these intelligence organizations and their members that the anonymity of those members should be preserved. This extends to retired and deceased members.

Reasons for the Decision:

Disclosure of these names would constitute a breach of confidence.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(g)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person (including a deceased person).

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

File 7 This file contains names of members of the Australian Sigint organization and of an intelligence organization of another country. Some members of the public (in Australia and overseas) have a less than favourable disposition towards intelligence organizations and their members.

Reasons for the Decision:

The release of these names would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

DM 86-35546(8)
PC 85-20344

December 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2355
Title: Joint Intelligence, Cooperation with USA, UK and Canada
Files: 1 Visit to Australia By [Exempt]
2 Cooperation in British Commonwealth Defence. Exchange of JIC Papers Between Canada and Australia
3 [Exempt] Political Assessments for External Affairs
4 MAJ GEN Sir K Strong - Discussions with ANZAM Defence Committee and Secretary's Personal Note of Discussions
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6 DSB - US Relationships - Tripartite Conference Papers
7 Visit of US and UK Representatives to DSB, Nov 1952 Tripartite Conference Sep 1953
8 Secretary [Exempt] Planning Conference 1952
9 Principles of [Exempt] Collaboration with Commonwealth Countries other than the UK
10 Joint Intelligence Organisation - Mr Casey's Proposal for Visit of Brig Dudley Clarke
11 United States Officer Attached to [Exempt]

Decision:

The item detailed above is open with exceptions which contain information that has been exempted under sub-section 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Archives Act 1983.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(a)

The material contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

- Files 1-5 The documents contain information which was obtained from foreign governments.
- Files 6-11 The files contain information on activities or arrangements of the Sigint organization of a type that is still classified and given special protection in Australia and in other countries with which Australia collaborates on these matters.
- File 7 This file contains names of members or former members of the Australian Sigint Organization.

Reasons for the Decision:

The information was passed to Australian authorities in strict confidence. The foreign governments advise that confidentiality still remains, therefore any premature public release could adversely and substantially prejudice Australia's relations with the governments with which the agreement was made. The release of such information could reasonably be expected to harm the defence, security and international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemption Claimed:

S33(1)(b)

Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

- Files 2-6, 8-11 The documents contain information provided by foreign governments on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign governments. The foreign governments continues to afford security protection to this type of material.
- File 7 This file contains names of members of an intelligence organization of another country. Release of these names would be at variance with security policy of the country concerned.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government, with detrimental effect on international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(d)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

File 7 This file contains names of members of Australian Sigint organization and an intelligence organization of another country. An understanding exists between these intelligence organizations and their members that the anonymity of those members should be preserved. This extends to retired and deceased members.

Reasons for the Decision:

Disclosure of these names would constitute a breach of confidence.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(g)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person (including a deceased person).

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

File 7 This file contains names of members of the Australian Sigint organization and of an intelligence organization of another country. Some members of the public (in Australia and overseas) have a less than favourable disposition towards intelligence organizations and their members.

Reasons for the Decision:

The release of these names would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

PC 85-21862
PC 87-23231
PC 88-46385
PC 85-20344

24 June 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT

Exemptions are claimed in respect of the following:

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2365 (10 files)
Title: Joint Intelligence Organisation Box 3

File 2 Meeting of [a UK officer] with Defence Committee 8 April 1954
Exempt in total and part title.

File 3 Services Intercept Organisation. Review of Further Development and Financial Requirements.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 4 Review of Further Development and Financial Requirements of Signal Intelligence Organisation.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 7 Defence Signals Branch: Procedure for Approval of Tasks and Their Relation to Capacity to Fulfil Them.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 8 Defence Signals Branch - Review of Capacity.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 10 Defence Signals Branch: [remainder exempt].
Exempt in total and part title.

File 11 Intelligence Sources and Priorities Report by Mr Stewart.
Exempt in total.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or internal

relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian Government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

s33(1)(b) Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government or the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

Reason for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government.

STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 40(5) - ARCHIVES ACT

Series: Registration action on ACTRO
File: Z1/11
Title: Joint Intelligence Organisation: Report to PM on
JIB, DSD and (exempt) March 1953

Exemptions are claimed in respect of folios: 35, 45, 54, 121.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s.33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The documents contain the name of members, or former members of Security and Intelligence organisations.

Reason for the decision.

The public release of such details, whether the member is serving, retired or dead, would assist targets of these organisations in identifying personnel who may be, or may have been, engaged in sensitive security operations against them. Such a disclosure, under the Archives Act, could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security and defence of the Commonwealth.

Grounds of exemption claimed:

s.33(1)(d) Information or mater the disclosure of which 'under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The documents contain the name of members, or former members of Security and Intelligence services. There has existed and still exists an understanding between such agencies and it's employees that the anonymity of those employees should be preserved. That preservation extends to retired or deceased officers.

The reason for the decision.

Disclosure of the names of employees of intelligence agencies would be a breach of confidence.

Grounds of exemption claimed:

s.33(1)(g) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The document contains the name of an officer or former employee of intelligence agencies. Some members of the public, usually through ignorance or prejudice, have a less than favourable disposition towards intelligence agencies and it's employees.

Reason for the decision.

The release of the names of employees whether serving retired or dead could result in harassment of those employees and/or their families. The release of those names would therefore constitute an unreasonable disclosure of their personal affairs.

Exemptions are claimed in respect of folios: 17-20, 22, 25, 31-38, 47, 48, 50, 51, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 67-69, 71, 72, 73, 75, 83, 84, 91, 92, 94, 100, 102, 103, 110, 117, 120, 123-126, 127-129, 131-133, 135-137, 138, 139, 140-144.

Grounds of exemption claimed:

s.33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The documents were originated by a foreign government or the information contained therein was provided in confidence by a foreign government.

Reason for the decision.

The government whom originated these documents or provided the information has specifically asked that such information not be released publicly. The action to do so under the Archives Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to Australian international relations, that is, between the Commonwealth of Australia and the foreign nation concerned.

Grounds of exemption claimed:

s.33(1)(b) Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, and authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The abovementioned information was entrusted with Australian authorities in strict confidence. The originator has confirmed that the confidentiality still exists and has requested that the documents not be released publicly.

Reason for the decision.

Disclosure of such information would constitute a breach of confidence.

Exemptions are claimed in respect of folios: file title, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23-24, 25, 26, 27, 38, 41, 44, 46, 49, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64-69, 70, 71, 72, 76, 77-81, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95-98, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 113, 116, 117, 118, 119, 137, 140.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s.33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The documents reveal information that is properly classified. The information relates to codeword and cover names that could reasonably be expected to be of benefit to hostile intelligence services.

Reason for the decision.

The disclosure of such information under the Archives Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the

Exemptions are claimed in respect of: 3-5, 42-43, 53, 74.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s.33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The documents reveal information relating to ASIS' secret votes and financial matters. That information is in sufficient detail to enable broad analysis of priorities and directions of the Service.

Reason for the decision

Disclosure of such information under the Archives Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the Commonwealth's defence, and national security.

Exemptions are claimed in respect of folios: 28, 29, 30, 70, 83, 84, 91, 103, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128, 129, 130.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s.33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The facts and evidence on which the decision is based.

The documents reveal information that is properly classified. The information relates to signals intelligence operational detail, signals intelligence instructions and handling caveats, file descriptors and references that still require national security classification.

Reason for the decision.

The disclosure of such information under the Archives Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the Commonwealth's defence and national security.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

NOTICE OF DECLASSIFICATION WITH EXCEPTION

I certify that this record identified as:

Item no. - 21/1

Series no. - NOT REGISTERED

Item title - JOINT INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION: REPORT TO A.M.
ON JIB, 050 7 [EXEMPT] MARCH 1953

Date range - 1953-1955

Total no. of folios - 144

is declassified with the exception of the following
folios and parts of folios: ~~1, 3-5, 10, 11, 13, 14-15, 16,~~
17-20, 21, 22, 23-24, 25-38, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49-81, 83-84,
86-89, 91-98, 100-105, 107-108, 110, 111-133, 135-144

The exceptions identified above are to be treated as:

SPECIAL HANDLING

The declassification action indicated above has been approved by
me, being an officer authorised to declassify archival records in
Annex C to DI(G) ADMIN 27/2, Navy ADMIN 8-3, Army ADMIN 4-1, Air
ADMIN 11-10 of 30 July 1986.

Declassification Authority

(Signature)

A. J. CIEMPKA

(Printed Name)

A/EO(3)ANS

(Appointment)

13-3-91

(Date)

PC89-4593

(File Ref)



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5) OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Series:	A5954
Control Symbol:	2366/8
Barcode:	698417
Title:	Prime Minister's Visit to Defence Signals Branch Aug 1955
Decision Maker:	Alan McClelland
Designation:	Senior Access Examiner
Date:	6 Dec 2021

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the Archives Act 1983 (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested item.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the item requested
- the relevant provisions of the Archives Act
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records
- information provided by Commonwealth agencies which I have relied upon in formulating my decision

Decision

After examining this item I have decided that this item is open with exceptions under 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

Three folios (1-3) have been partially exempt from public access.

The findings of facts

Section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

This item contains:

-
- Details which if disclosed could affect the Commonwealth's relations with the current government of a foreign country.
 - Information that reveals the areas of interest of Australian intelligence agencies.
 - Information relevant to the capability, sources, objectives, methods, areas of interest or operations of an Australian intelligence agency. The information is still regarded as sensitive.

Reasons for decision

International relations are dependent upon the adequate flow of information between one country and another. If sensitive information was disclosed, it could lessen the confidence of a foreign government in the Australian Government and thus damage international relations.

The public disclosure of this information could compromise the future activities of Australian intelligence agencies and impair their ability to carry out their statutory functions. It would therefore reasonably be expected to cause damage to the defence and security of the Commonwealth.

Review of decision

The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines items before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can formally appeal within 28 days of receiving a decision:

1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please read the **National Archives Fact Sheet 12** *What to do if we refuse you access* (www.naa.gov.au/about-us/publications/fact-sheets/fs12.aspx).

PC 85-21862
PC 87-23231
PC 88-46385
PC 85-20344

24 June 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT

Exemptions are claimed in respect of the following:

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2365 (10 files)
Title: Joint Intelligence Organisation Box 3

File 2 Meeting of [a UK officer] with Defence Committee 8 April 1954
Exempt in total and part title.

File 3 Services Intercept Organisation. Review of Further Development and Financial Requirements.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 4 Review of Further Development and Financial Requirements of Signal Intelligence Organisation.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 7 Defence Signals Branch: Procedure for Approval of Tasks and Their Relation to Capacity to Fulfil Them.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 8 Defence Signals Branch - Review of Capacity.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 10 Defence Signals Branch: [remainder exempt].
Exempt in total and part title.

File 11 Intelligence Sources and Priorities Report by Mr Stewart.
Exempt in total.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or internal



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5)
OF THE *ARCHIVES ACT 1983*

Series	A5954
Control Symbol	2365/10
Item ID	733839
Title	Defence Signals Branch - [remainder of title exempt]
Decision Maker	Tony Warren
Designation	Senior Access Examiner
Date	18 January 2022

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested item.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the item requested;
- the relevant provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*;
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records; and
- information provided by Commonwealth agencies which I have relied upon in formulating my decision.

Decision

After examining this item I have decided that this item is open with exception under 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

One (1) folio has been partially exempted from public access.

The findings of facts

Section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

- a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

This item contains:

- Details which if disclosed could affect the Commonwealth's relations with the current government of a foreign country.
- Information that reveals areas of interest to intelligence agencies.
- Information relevant to the capability, sources, objectives, methods, areas of interest or operations of an intelligence agency. The information is still regarded as sensitive.

Reasons for decision

International relations are dependent upon the adequate flow of information between one country and another. If sensitive information was disclosed, it could lessen the confidence of a foreign government in the Australian Government to protect future information flow, and thus damage international relations.

The public disclosure of this information could compromise the future activities of Australian intelligence agencies and impair their ability to carry out their statutory functions. It would therefore reasonably be expected to cause damage to the defence and security of the Commonwealth.

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The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines items before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

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1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please see [What to do if we refuse you access](https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access) (<https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access>).

Document 7

DM 86-35546(8)
PC 85-20344

December 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2354
Title: Defence Signals Branch. General Files
Files: 2 Liaison Between the Departments of External
Affairs and Defence - Issue of Special Material
to Dept of External Affairs
3 Sub Committees of the Joint Intelligence
Committee(s)
4 101 Australian Wireless Regiment - Proposed
Location and Employment of Personnel
5 Programme of Work for T Section
6 (Title Exempt)
7 Training of Traffic Analysis Staff for the
Services
8 Use of Service Operators
9 Defence Committee Agendum. Recent Incidents of
(sic) Hainan Island (remainder of title exempt)
10 External Affairs Interest in Defence Signals
Branch Material
11 Attachment of Staff of Defence Signals Branch
to (remainder of title exempt)

Decision:

The item detailed above is open with exceptions which contain information that has been exempted under sub-section 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Archives Act 1983.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(a)

The material contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 2, 3, 7 The material contains details of intelligence

gathering procedures.

Files 4, 5, 6
8, 9, 10, 11

The material contains information on activities or arrangements of the Sigint organization of a type that is still classified and given special protection in Australia and in other countries with which Australia collaborates on these matters.

Files 5, 11 These files contain names of members or former members of the Australian Sigint Organization.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security and defence of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(b)

Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 2-11 The material contains information communicated to the Australian Government by a foreign government in strict confidence. Such information is still afforded security protection in the originating country.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government, with detrimental effect on international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(d)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 5 ,11 These files contain names of members of an Australian Sigint Organization and an intelligence organization of another country. An understanding exists between these intelligence organizations and their members that the anonymity of those members should be preserved. This extends to retired and deceased members.

Reasons for the Decision:

Disclosure of these names would constitute a breach of confidence.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(g)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person (including a deceased person).

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 5, 11 These files contain names of members of the Australian Sigint organization and of an intelligence organization of another country. Some members of the public (in Australia and overseas) have a less than favourable disposition towards intelligence organizations and their members.

Reasons for the Decision:

The release of these names would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

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PC 85-20344

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4 101 Australian Wireless Regiment - Proposed
Location and Employment of Personnel
5 Programme of Work for T Section
6 (Title Exempt)
7 Training of Traffic Analysis Staff for the
Services
8 Use of Service Operators
9 Defence Committee Agendum. Recent Incidents of
(sic) Hainan Island (remainder of title exempt)
10 External Affairs Interest in Defence Signals
Branch Material
11 Attachment of Staff of Defence Signals Branch
to (remainder of title exempt)

Decision:

The item detailed above is open with exceptions which contain information that has been exempted under sub-section 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Archives Act 1983.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(a)

The material contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 2, 3, 7 The material contains details of intelligence

gathering procedures.

Files 4, 5, 6
8, 9, 10, 11

The material contains information on activities or arrangements of the Sigint organization of a type that is still classified and given special protection in Australia and in other countries with which Australia collaborates on these matters.

Files 5, 11

These files contain names of members or former members of the Australian Sigint Organization.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security and defence of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(b)

Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 2-11

The material contains information communicated to the Australian Government by a foreign government in strict confidence. Such information is still afforded security protection in the originating country.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government, with detrimental effect on international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(d)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 5 ,11 These files contain names of members of an Australian Sigint Organization and an intelligence organization of another country. An understanding exists between these intelligence organizations and their members that the anonymity of those members should be preserved. This extends to retired and deceased members.

Reasons for the Decision:

Disclosure of these names would constitute a breach of confidence.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(g)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person (including a deceased person).

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

Files 5, 11 These files contain names of members of the Australian Sigint organization and of an intelligence organization of another country. Some members of the public (in Australia and overseas) have a less than favourable disposition towards intelligence organizations and their members.

Reasons for the Decision:

The release of these names would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

DM 86-35546(8)
PC 85-20344

December 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2355
Title: Joint Intelligence, Cooperation with USA, UK and Canada
Files: 1 Visit to Australia By [Exempt]
2 Cooperation in British Commonwealth Defence. Exchange of JIC Papers Between Canada and Australia
3 [Exempt] Political Assessments for External Affairs
4 MAJ GEN Sir K Strong - Discussions with ANZAM Defence Committee and Secretary's Personal Note of Discussions
5 Joint Intelligence Bureau [Exempt]
6 DSB - US Relationships - Tripartite Conference Papers
7 Visit of US and UK Representatives to DSB Nov 1952 Tripartite Conference Sep 1953
8 Secretary [Exempt] Planning Conference 1952
9 Principles of [Exempt] Collaboration with Commonwealth Countries other than the UK
10 Joint Intelligence Organisation - Mr Casey's Proposal for Visit of Brig Dudley Clarke
11 United States Officer Attached to [Exempt]

Decision:

The item detailed above is open with exceptions which contain information that has been exempted under sub-section 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Archives Act 1983.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(a)

The material contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

- Files 1-5 The documents contain information which was obtained from foreign governments.
- Files 6-11 The files contain information on activities or arrangements of the Sigint organization of a type that is still classified and given special protection in Australia and in other countries with which Australia collaborates on these matters.
- File 7 This file contains names of members or former members of the Australian Sigint Organization.

Reasons for the Decision:

The information was passed to Australian authorities in strict confidence. The foreign governments advise that confidentiality still remains, therefore any premature public release could adversely and substantially prejudice Australia's relations with the governments with which the agreement was made. The release of such information could reasonably be expected to harm the defence, security and international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemption Claimed:

S33(1)(b)

Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

- Files 2-6, 8-11 The documents contain information provided by foreign governments on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign governments. The foreign governments continues to afford security protection to this type of material.
- File 7 This file contains names of members of an intelligence organization of another country. Release of these names would be at variance with security policy of the country concerned.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government, with detrimental effect on international relations of the Commonwealth.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(d)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

File 7 This file contains names of members of Australian Sigint organization and an intelligence organization of another country. An understanding exists between these intelligence organizations and their members that the anonymity of those members should be preserved. This extends to retired and deceased members.

Reasons for the Decision:

Disclosure of these names would constitute a breach of confidence.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

s33(1)(g)

Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person (including a deceased person).

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

File 7 This file contains names of members of the Australian Sigint organization and of an intelligence organization of another country. Some members of the public (in Australia and overseas) have a less than favourable disposition towards intelligence organizations and their members.

Reasons for the Decision:

The release of these names would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

PC 85-21862
PC 87-23231
PC 88-46385
PC 85-20344

24 June 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES
ACT

Exemptions are claimed in respect of the following:

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2365 (10 files)
Title: Joint Intelligence Organisation Box 3

File 2 Meeting of [a UK officer] with Defence Committee 8
April 1954
Exempt in total and part title.

File 3 Services Intercept Organisation. Review of Further
Development and Financial Requirements.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 4 Review of Further Development and Financial
Requirements of Signal Intelligence Organisation.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 7 Defence Signals Branch: Procedure for Approval of
Tasks and Their Relation to Capacity to Fulfil Them.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 8 Defence Signals Branch - Review of Capacity.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 10 Defence Signals Branch: [remainder exempt].
Exempt in total and part title.

File 11 Intelligence Sources and Priorities Report by Mr
Stewart.
Exempt in total.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under
this Act could reasonably be expected to cause
damage to the security, defence or internal

relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian Government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

s33(1)(b) Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government or the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

Reason for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government.

PC 85-21862
PC 87-23231
PC 88-46385
PC 85-20344

24 June 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT

Exemptions are claimed in respect of the following:

Series: A5954
Item: Box 2365 (10 files)
Title: Joint Intelligence Organisation Box 3

File 2 Meeting of [a UK officer] with Defence Committee 8 April 1954.
Exempt in total and part title.

File 3 Services Intercept Organisation. Review of Further Development and Financial Requirements.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 4 Review of Further Development and Financial Requirements of Signal Intelligence Organisation.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 7 Defence Signals Branch: Procedure for Approval of Tasks and Their Relation to Capacity to Fulfil Them.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 8 Defence Signals Branch - Review of Capacity.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian Archives.

File 10 Defence Signals Branch: [remainder exempt].
Exempt in total and part title.

File 11 Intelligence Sources and Priorities Report by Mr Stewart.
Exempt in total.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or internal

relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian Government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

s33(1)(b) Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government or the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

Reason for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government.

PC 85-21862
PC 87-23231
PC 88-46385
PC 85-20344

24 June 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES
ACT

Exemptions are claimed in respect of the following:

Series: A5954
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Exempt in total and part title.

File 3 Services Intercept Organisation. Review of Further
Development and Financial Requirements.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 4 Review of Further Development and Financial
Requirements of Signal Intelligence Organisation.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 7 Defence Signals Branch: Procedure for Approval of
Tasks and Their Relation to Capacity to Fulfil Them.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 8 Defence Signals Branch - Review of Capacity.
Declassified with exceptions as advised to Australian
Archives.

File 10 Defence Signals Branch: [remainder exempt].
Exempt in total and part title.

File 11 Intelligence Sources and Priorities Report by Mr
Stewart.
Exempt in total.

Grounds of Exemption Claimed:

s33(1)(a) Information or matter the disclosure of which under
this Act could reasonably be expected to cause
damage to the security, defence or internal

relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian Government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

s33(1)(b) Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government or the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The material includes classified information, or details of that information provided by a foreign government on the understanding that it would be afforded by the Australian government, security protection equivalent to that provided by the foreign government. The foreign government continues to afford security protection to this type of material.

Reason for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government.



ACCESS DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER
SECTION 40(5) OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Record Series:	A5954
Title:	Attachment of staff of Defence Signals Branch to No 367 Signals Unit, RAF, Hong Kong
Control symbol:	2354/11
Total number of folios (i.e. equivalent separate pages) on the record:	25

1. Decision

After examining this record I have decided to open it for public access except for certain material which is identified below.

2. Basis for decision

I have taken into account:

- the content of the record requested
- the relevant provisions of the *Archives Act 1983 (the Act)*
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records
- information provided by the Department of Defence on which I have relied in formulating my decision.

3. Material withheld

Category of material withheld	Number of total folios per category	List each folio separately by category of material withheld
Partially exempted folios (certain parts of the text have been expunged)	9	1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16a, 17
Wholly exempted folios	0	
Folios not within the open access period as defined in s3 (7) of the Act	0	
Folios withheld pending agency examination and advice	0	

4. Findings of fact and reasons for decision

A. Findings of fact

Table A in Annexure 1 provides a summary of my findings of fact where I invoked specific provisions under Section 33 of the Act. By invoking these provisions, I have relied on material listed in part 2 above in order to arrive at a decision.

B. Reasons for decision Table A in Annexure 1 provides the reasons for my decision for each folio exempted which are derived from the findings of fact.

5. Appeal rights National Archives undertakes careful examination of a record before making a decision to exempt any part of a record, where necessary, we consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with my decision to exempt information under a provision of Section 33 of the Act, you can contact a reference officer in National Archives to seek a further explanation.

If you are still not happy with the decision you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review within 60 days of receiving it.

For more information please read the **National Archives Fact Sheet 12- What to do if we refuse you access**. You can also lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman in relation to the decision.

Decision maker Sandra Burkett

Designation Access Examiner

Date 19 April 2012

Annexure 1 Table A: Material exempted by folio number and grouped by the application of exemption provisions

Relevant legislative provision invoked under Section 33 of the Act	Folio numbers	Finding of facts	Reasons for Decision
S 33(1) (a) - information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.	1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16a, 17	<p>These records are exempt because one or more of the following references apply:</p> <p>Intelligence and/or information the disclosure of which could cause damage to the security, defence or the international relations of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The information is still considered sensitive.</p> <p>There are real and substantial grounds to conclude that the release of the information would pose a risk to the security and defence of Australia.</p>	<p>The Australian intelligence agencies are required to protect sensitive sources, methods and techniques whose disclosure would potentially impact existing or future capabilities.</p> <p>The exemptions are imposed to prevent the disclosure of information which would enable foreign organisations and entities to attempt to deduce the nature and extent of intelligence activities undertaken by Australia.</p>

DM 86-35546(8)
PC 85-20344

December 1991

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40 OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983

Series: A5954
Item: File 2358
Title: Intelligence. General Files
Files: 1 Proposal that [Exempt] Could Furnish
Intelligence Information of Value to JIB
3 POW Intelligence - Escape, Evasion and Rescue
5 Target Selection Committee - Far East
6 Scientific Intelligence

Decision:

The item detailed above is open with exceptions which contain information that has been exempted under sub-section 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Archives Act 1983.

Grounds for Exemptions Claimed:

S33(1)(a)

The material contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The documents contain information communicated to or shared with the Australian Government by a foreign government. This information remains properly security classified.

Reasons for the Decision:

The foreign government has asked that such information not be released publicly. The public release of this information could reasonably be expected to cause damage to security, defence and international relations.

S33(1)(b)

Information or matter communicated in confidence by or on

behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organisation to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence.

The Facts and Evidence on which the Decision is Based:

The documents contain information communicated to or shared with the Australian Government by a foreign government. This information remains properly security classified.

Reasons for the Decision:

The public disclosure of such details would provide a breach of confidence in respect of a foreign government, with detrimental effect on international relations of the Commonwealth.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5)
OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983**

Series	A5954
Control Symbol	2365/10
Item ID	733839
Title	Defence Signals Branch - [remainder of title exempt]
Decision Maker	Tony Warren
Designation	Senior Access Examiner
Date	18 January 2022

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested item.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the item requested;
- the relevant provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*;
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records; and
- information provided by Commonwealth agencies which I have relied upon in formulating my decision.

Decision

After examining this item I have decided that this item is open with exception under 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

One (1) folio has been partially exempted from public access.

The findings of facts

Section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

- a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

This item contains:

- Details which if disclosed could affect the Commonwealth's relations with the current government of a foreign country.
- Information that reveals areas of interest to intelligence agencies.
- Information relevant to the capability, sources, objectives, methods, areas of interest or operations of an intelligence agency. The information is still regarded as sensitive.

Reasons for decision

International relations are dependent upon the adequate flow of information between one country and another. If sensitive information was disclosed, it could lessen the confidence of a foreign government in the Australian Government to protect future information flow, and thus damage international relations.

The public disclosure of this information could compromise the future activities of Australian intelligence agencies and impair their ability to carry out their statutory functions. It would therefore reasonably be expected to cause damage to the defence and security of the Commonwealth.

Review of decision

The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines items before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can formally appeal within 28 days of receiving a decision:

1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please see [What to do if we refuse you access](https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access) (<https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access>).



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5)
OF THE *ARCHIVES ACT 1983***

Series	A5954
Control Symbol	2363/1
Item ID	681170
Title	Joint Intelligence Organisation - Post War. File No. 1 (From August, 1945 to Cabinet Submission of July, 1946)
Decision Maker	Tony Warren
Designation	Senior Access Examiner
Date	19 January 2024

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested item.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the item requested;
- the relevant provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*;
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records; and,
- information provided by Commonwealth agencies which I have relied upon in formulating my decision.

Decision

After examining this item I have decided that this item is open with exception under section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

Folios 117 has been partially exempted from public access.

The findings of facts

Section 33(1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

- a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

This item contains:

- Information that could affect Commonwealth relations with the current government of a foreign country.

Reasons for decision

International relations are dependent on the adequate flow of information between one country and another. If sensitive information were disclosed, it could lessen the confidence of a foreign government in the Australian government and thus damage international relations.

Review of decision

The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines items before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can formally appeal within 28 days of receiving a decision:

1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please see [What to do if we refuse you access](https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access) (<https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access>).