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SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Avowal of New Zealand SIGINT Organisation

Thank you for your minute of 12 June
(AO84/1704) which the Prime Minister has
seen and noted.

FERIS

13 June 1984

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Handwritten signature or initials.

Prime Minister
for information
[Signature]

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Ref.A084/1704MR BUTLER

Avowal of New Zealand SIGINT Organisation

The Prime Minister will wish to be aware that the Prime Minister of New Zealand will be making a statement to the New Zealand Parliament tomorrow afternoon (but 0300 hours British Summer Time), avowing the SIGINT function of the Government Communications and Signals Bureau (the New Zealand counterpart of GCHQ). I understand that the statement will specifically refer to New Zealand's signals intelligence co-operation with allies and name the countries concerned, including the United Kingdom, but will not specify the individual agencies involved. New Zealand will be the last signatory to the UKUSA agreement to avow its signals intelligence activities.

2. This move is not unexpected and the New Zealanders wish to be able to say publicly that their SIGINT service makes a contribution to the allied intelligence effort. The statement is unlikely to attract much interest here or cause any particular difficulties. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are briefing their News Department to take the line in response to any press enquiries that the Prime Minister's statement in May 1983, which publicly avowed GCHQ's SIGINT function, specifically referred to co-operation with allies, but to offer no further comment.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

12 June 1984