

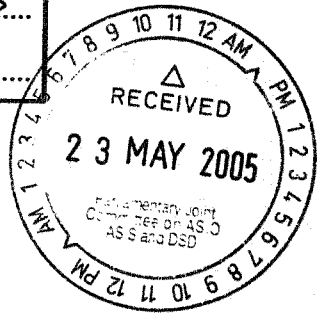
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Rae Desmond Jones

Submission No:.....101.....
 Date Received: 23-5-05
 Secretary:

23 May 05

The Hon. David Jull
Chair
Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO



Dear Chairperson,

Re: Continuation of ASIO Powers

I would like to object to ASIO continuing to possess powers, which are unlikely to effectively stop any well organised form of terrorism, while leaving innocent people subject to possible abuse.

While ASIO may not intend to abuse these powers, permanency and the gradual change of political culture in Australia could produce results which do not appear possible at the present. ASIO has been prudent, but this may not always be so. It would be terrible if Australia became an authoritarian and undemocratic state, as is possible through these powers. The well documented abuses by US and British Servicemen and women could not have occurred were it not for the political climate post the events of 9/11.

It is unlikely that the powers being debated would effectively stop a terrorist incident. There are so many forms that such a deplorable action could take. On the other hand, there is the substantial possibility of these powers being used selectively for political purposes, as has occurred in the past.

Yours Truly,

c.c. Anthony Albanese, Member for Grayndler.