

ARTICLE APPEARED
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Letters

Australian Intrigue (Contd.)

I write as the former Governor-General of Australia who in November 1975 terminated the commission of Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister of Australia and thereby dismissed his government. You discussed that event in your issue of Dec. 13. Your article stated that since the dismissal, allegations have surfaced that "the CIA had a hand in Whitlam's fall." You referred to a recent piece in *Foreign Policy* magazine in which a Professor James A. Nathan stated that "a plausible case is being developed that CIA officials may have also done in Australia what they managed to achieve in Iran, Guatemala and Chile: destroy an elected government." I do not know what the CIA did or did not do in those other countries, but it is totally false to say that it did this in Australia.

Before publishing your story you gave me an opportunity to comment, but I decided to continue my longstanding policy of not speaking to the press about these events. However, Nathan's article presents much rumor, gossip and allegation as fact. As a result of being mentioned in *TIME*, his piece has received widespread circulation in the U.S. and throughout the world. Thus I have come to the conclusion that my denial of CIA participation in any act of mine should be equally widely published.

My decision to dismiss Mr. Whitlam was exclusively my own, made upon my sole and full responsibility as Governor-General. No one else produced it. The CIA had no part in it.

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Kerr
London