

This will confirm the Director's verbal advice (to some addressees) that the Prime Minister has decided that the [redacted] Station is to close. In giving this instruction the Prime Minister told the Director that he, himself, would have wished the Station to continue in existence but was afraid that should it become known, publicly, that MO9 [redacted] he would find himself in an extremely difficult political situation as, quite clearly, it would be impossible for him to present an MO9 presence in Santiago as being in the direct Australian national interest. The Prime Minister described his decision as being an "agonising" one.

2. No precipitate action to close the Station is being taken [redacted]

(a) [redacted]

(b) [redacted]

(c) [redacted]

(d) [redacted]

3. [redacted] The Station has also been instructed to return all [redacted] and other operational equipment [redacted] to return all MO9 operational equipment and records (except cypher equipment and tapes) to Main Office, other than that which can be destroyed on the spot. The question of the disposal of heavy items like cars, safes, etc. remains to be answered.

[redacted] The Director has also informed the Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and [redacted] has informed his Ambassador.

5. Would addressees please now take over matters which fall within their respective fields. I suggest, however, that telegraphic traffic be co-ordinated.

[redacted]