

Surely by being part of Five Eyes we gain useful intelligence?

Although NZ governments always use this as an excuse to stay in the club there is little evidence of any real benefit or evidence of Government decisions changing because of such input. And, generally, about 90% of “intelligence” material is open source.

Don't all countries spy on others?

No. The majority of countries have neither the money nor the technology to run systems like Five Eyes. China and Russia are major players but have nowhere near the uptake of the UK and USA systems. Do we want to be spying on our major trading partners? And NZ's standing in international affairs is tainted by our involvement in Five Eyes.

Isn't the GCSB essential for our cybersecurity?

NZ cybersecurity is in the hands of the National Cyber Security Centre which is part of the GCSB. But the GCSB is also part of the Five Eyes cyberwarfare system, so is as much dedicated to hacking systems as defending them. Creating legally enforced back doors into cyber systems gives bad hackers the opportunity to break into those systems. Cybersecurity needs to be run by an independent transparent body.

Aren't the activities of the GCSB and SIS checked by oversight?

The oversight regime is very limited in personnel and resources and it is very hard to monitor secret activities. We know from historical experience here and overseas that oversight often fails.

Surely our system of warrants ensures the agencies are under democratic control?

There are several ways that individuals can be spied on under the warrant system: There can be a “Director's authorisation”. There can be warrants for a broad group. Masses of data is picked up inadvertently. Five Eyes partners can spy for each other.

An independent foreign policy

NZ would be safer and more secure if we cut our links with Five Eyes and Trump's erratic and militaristic policies. Our international standing would improve and our ability to be a peacemaker in a world of global rivals would be enhanced.

The GCSB and the SIS should be disbanded and their legitimate security functions handed over to the Police who do a much better and more transparent job.

The cyber security function of the GCSB should be handed over to a fully independent agency with the sole focus of cybersecurity.



Waihopai spy base must be closed!

NEW ZEALAND SHOULD NOT FOLLOW DONALD TRUMP

The case for New Zealand withdrawing from the Five Eyes alliance, closing our spy agencies and developing an independent foreign policy

Dispelling the Myths

NZ Intelligence Agencies, Five Eyes and the Waihopai Spy Base

What are NZ's main intelligence Agencies?

- We have the Security Intelligence Service (**SIS**) which is responsible for domestic surveillance.
- We have the Government Communications Security Bureau (**GCSB**) which spies across the Pacific and Asia for the Five Eyes alliance (USA, UK, Canada, Australia and NZ). It operates the Waihopai satellite spy base near Blenheim. Under laws passed in March 2017 it is able to target New Zealanders in certain cases.

Were the SIS and GCSB set up to protect us from terrorism?

No. They were set up to spy on adversary governments such as Russia and China during the Cold War. Their other function was to spy on Leftwing critics of the Government. A case can be made that the agencies undermine democracy more than they protect it.

Is terrorism the main focus of SIS and GCSB?

No. The GCSB is mainly focused on diplomatic and economic spying for Five Eyes. The GCSB does help the USA and UK track alleged terrorists and assists the SIS

What Is Five Eyes?

The Five Eyes group is made up of spy agencies from the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Edward Snowden described the aim of this alliance as “to collect everything, store everything, analyse everything” from communications and data bases all around the world. The collected information is used for everything from gaining commercial advantage in trade deals, manipulating UN affairs, kidnapping and torturing suspected terrorists and ex judicial assassination by drones.

In many countries the operations of these agencies have been declared illegal by the court system, but governments have repeatedly changed the law to allow these activities to continue; thus allowing the further erosion of our privacy and human rights.

This leaflet is produced by the Anti-Bases Campaign, which monitors the actions of Five Eyes and the NZ intelligence agencies, in defence of democratic and human rights. ABC publishes *Peace Researcher*, which focuses on these issues, twice a year. Membership is \$20 per year.

ABC, Box 2258, Christchurch 8140
abc@chch.planet.org.nz
www.converge.org.nz/abc

in surveillance of potential terrorists in NZ. But much of the spying is on economic or political targets: UN diplomats, trade officials, people in politics in our small Pacific neighbours.

Surely, we need these agencies to prevent politically motivated crime?

Claims of a terrorism threat are used to justify large budgets for the intelligence agencies but the threat in NZ is very low.

The SIS has a terrorist watch list of about 30-40 people. Overseas experience shows that often perpetrators are not on a list or are on the list but still carry out some atrocity.

Such lists need oversight. People suffer from false accusations. Activities can alienate law-abiding groups and undermine faith in authority.

Also, the NZ Police have a much better record of dealing with such problems. They dealt with the only “terrorism” related convictions in NZ courts (the *Rainbow Warrior* bombing and the Israeli Mossad stealing NZ passports – both acts of “allies”).

But our intelligence agencies are helping our Five Eyes partners fight international terrorism

The opposite is true. We contribute to terrorism. For example, intelligence processed by GCSB staff and GCSB-trained personnel helps the US carry out drone strikes, bombings and kidnappings around the world. The killing or torture of people provokes more terrorist response. The GCSB works in support of the American President and his political and economic agenda.