Date Introduced: 13 November 1979
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. I. Viner, Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs

Purpose/Background

This Bill amends the Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act 1979 as a consequence of the Government's acceptance of the majority of recommendations in the Interim Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drugs. That Act provided inter alia that the Director-General of A.S.I.O. or an authorised A.S.I.O. officer may communicate information relating to narcotics offences to Customs officers and information relating to serious criminal offences to officers of Commonwealth and State Police; in view of the Royal Commission's recommendation that the Australian Federal Police take over the essential functions of narcotics inquiries from Customs, this Bill amends the Act in respect of the communication of information by A.S.I.O. accordingly.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 amends section 18 of the Act to provide that the Director-General of A.S.I.O. may communicate information on serious offences to a member or special member of the Australian Federal Police, as well as State and Territory police (para. 18(3)(a)) and information on narcotics offences to a member or special member of the Australian Federal Police (para. 18(3)(b)).