

Letter to the Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald

17 October 2017

Dear Editor

If I haven't felt passionately about an Australian head of state, I do now after reading about historian Jenny Hocking's uncovering of a patent intention by representatives of the current British Queen to support the dismissal of our elected government, led by Gough Whitlam ("British officials flew in to meet Kerr in run-up to Whitlam's sacking", October 16).

It is extraordinary to read the words of Sir Michael Palliser, recently appointed permanent under-secretary of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who flew in to Canberra to meet with the Queen's representative in Australia, governor-general John Kerr, and the British high commissioner "just as the Senate was blocking supply".

Foreign interference in an elected government in a democracy? Is the assessment that Sir Michael later reported back to London that "Sir John Kerr could be relied on" our country's 1975 equivalent of President Putin's evident belief that Trump and his circle could likewise be relied on to defeat Hillary Clinton?

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