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# UK intelligence helped topple Whitlam: Pilger



© Pilger... spy claims.

BRITISH intelligence was secretly involved in ousting the Whitlam Labor Government in 1975, expatriate Australian journalist John Pilger will allege on British television this week.

Pilger says dozens of calls took place between the CIA and British intelligence services MI5 and MI6 before Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was dismissed from office in 1975 by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. Mr Whitlam was allegedly portrayed in the series of

phone calls as a risk to security.

The claims come in the third and final episode of Pilger's controversial series commemorating Australia's Bicentenary.

They were detailed in a preview of the program in Britain's Observer newspaper yesterday.

While British intelligence was working on ousting the Labor Government, MI5 officers were also plotting to discredit British Labour Prime Minister Harold Wil-

son, the documentary alleges.

Pilger says the claims are based on information from CIA sources in Washington who now admit that the British were used as a channel to discredit Mr Whitlam.

The program will renew speculation that Sir John's dismissal of the Whitlam Government was related to CIA intervention.

The CIA sources say there were three levels of approach to Britain to encourage intervention, presumably without Mr Wilson's knowledge.

A senior CIA official allegedly visited London in late 1974 to meet British politicians thought sympathetic to the US.

CIA head William Colby allegedly made representations to MI6 chief Maurice Oldfield the following year and British intelligence officers in Washington were contacted later in 1975.

The program alleges that the aim of the representations had been to "plant a seed in the British intelligence community" that Mr

Whitlam was a risk to security.

Mr Whitlam's dismissal on November 11 coincided with a falling out in Australia-US relations over security operations.

Mr Whitlam had threatened not to renew a treaty which allowed the CIA to maintain the key satellite spying base at Pine Gap.

Pilger alleges that the US warned Britain that Mr Whitlam was risking the entire pooled Western intelligence system. — AAP