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Director-General of Security – Opening Statement

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Supplementary Estimates – Monday, 13 February 2023, 1015-1115am

Good morning. Thank you Chair.

The security outlook remains complex, challenging and changing.

Espionage and foreign interference has supplanted terrorism as our principal security concern.

Australia is the target of sophisticated and persistent espionage and foreign interference activities, from a range of hostile foreign intelligence services.

These activities are an attack on our way of life.

You will be aware that late last year I lowered the domestic terrorism threat level to POSSIBLE. There are fewer extremists with the intention to conduct an attack onshore than there were when we raised the threat level to PROBABLE in 2014.

“Possible” does not mean “negligible”, however. Australia remains a potential terrorist target, and threats to life will always be a priority for ASIO.

Despite the complex, challenging and changing security environment, ASIO will continue working to stay ahead of the threats. We will respond as we always have, with agility and ingenuity, dedication and innovation.

Thank you, I look forward to your questions.

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