



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 1981

MR BILL MORRISON, MP

I was interviewed outside Parliament House on Thursday, 12 March 1981, as I entered the building, and was asked:

"Mr Bill Morrison today has said when he was a diplomat the KGB tried to recruit him as a spy. Were you aware of that? Do you have any reaction?"

I regarded the suggestion that Mr Morrison could have been recruited as a spy by a foreign power, as utterly absurd, and by my reply sought to demonstrate this.

Mr Morrison has a high reputation and a long record of public service, both in the Diplomatic Corps, and in the Parliament where he was once a Minister.

Absolutely no imputation whatsoever against Mr Morrison's loyalty or reputation was intended by me, and I very much regret that what I said has been so interpreted by Mr Morrison.



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 1981

The Prime Minister sent the following telex to  
Mr Bill Morrison, MP today:

Dear Bill,

This is a copy of a press statement I have just  
issued. I want you to know that I very much mean  
what I say in the release. I have never questioned  
your loyalty, nor have I ever had the slightest  
cause to do so. No imputation of any kind was  
intended against you.

Malcolm Fraser