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International statement calls for backdoor access into encrypted communications

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Officials from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India and Japan released a statement^[1] calling for big tech firms to allow government access into encrypted communications in the name of security. The push comes amid concerns that sex traffickers are able to use encrypted communications and, on the other side, that governments are using hot-button issues to gain even more access to their citizens' private communications.

The statement lays out policy efforts by governments that were implicated in the U.S. National Security Agency covert surveillance of citizens.^[2]

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, "International Statement: End-To-End Encryption and Public Safety," news release, October 11, 2020, <https://bit.ly/2VtC5fK>.

² "Which countries could have access to your data?" Mass surveillance, Amnesty International UK, last accessed December 3, 2020, <https://bit.ly/2VFKf4p>.

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