



Canadian Security Intelligence Service
Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité
1200 Alta Vista Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0R2

EP 155-44
IP 371-9

REVIEWED
JUL 25 1985
SECURITY SERVICE RECORDS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 10, 1985

The Honourable Ronald G. Atkey, P.C., Q.C.,
Chairman,
Security Intelligence Review Committee,
P.O. Box 2430, Station "D",
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5W5

Dear Mr. Atkey:

I should like to refer to your letter dated March 29, 1985 concerning the issue of homosexuality as it applies to CSIS personnel. I am taking the liberty of replying to you in Mr. Finn's absence in view of your request for a response prior to April 19, 1985.

In anticipation of a question in the House of Commons we forward the following to the Ministry:

"The CSIS does not have a stated policy regarding the engagement of homosexuals. The Staffing Manual for the Service is silent on this issue, as it looks towards the engagement of employees based on the qualifications they possess in relation to the stated requirements of the vacant positions in the Service. In the assessment of all candidates for employment, the CSIS must consider the individual's susceptibility to undue influence or duress."

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Your question as to, "whether homosexuality is a ground for ... (the) ... denial of a security clearance for any members of the Service," is more appropriately answered in the context of government-wide security screening practises. Homosexuality in itself is not necessarily a bar to the holding of a security clearance. It is regarded in the same light as any other feature of character which may impact on a person's reliability as it relates to loyalty. The relevance of homosexuality to security, therefore, can only be judged in its full contextual circumstance. Investigations and reporting such cases must go beyond the simple identification of a person as a homosexual and provide as full an appreciation as possible of how the person copes with his or her homosexuality, with emphasis upon whether the person is embarrassed or secretive about it so as to assess if the subject would be vulnerable to compromise, blackmail or indiscretion.

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Therefore, in summary, homosexuality is not grounds for discharge or denial of a security clearance for a member of the Service. It is hoped that the above will meet your immediate requirement. Should you require additional information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]
Deputy Director
Administration