



Privy Council Office Bureau du Conseil privé

Ottawa, Canada  
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CONFIDENTIAL

March 30, 1981.

Mr. Roger Tassé,  
Deputy Minister of Justice,  
Justice Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Tassé:

Attached is a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Michael Shoemaker, written in his capacity as Chairman of the Security Advisory Committee. Mr. Shoemaker points out a number of possible serious consequences for security policy in draft proposals for amendment of the Canadian human rights legislation. I understand that these proposals were developed in the Department of Justice, and were extensively discussed at meetings of representatives of interested departments and agencies some months ago. I also understand that some at least of the problems Mr. Shoemaker has outlined were stressed by security advisors who were invited to participate in those discussions.

I have examined the points made by Mr. Shoemaker, and I think they should be given careful consideration. It is my understanding that proposals to amend the human rights legislation are still under development at the official level, and thus there will be opportunity for the views set out in the letter to be taken into consideration.

I would draw your attention in particular to two points in Mr. Shoemaker's letter - that relevant recommendations of the McDonald Commission be examined in relation to proposals affecting national security; and that the Security Advisory Committee be afforded the opportunity to review the final draft of proposals before they are submitted to the Minister of Justice, to ensure that all the factors relating to national security are identified and set out for ministerial consideration.

I am asking the Secretary of the Interdepartmental Committee on Security and Intelligence to provide members with copies of this letter, and of Mr. Shoemaker's letter, for their information.

Attachs.

Canada

Yours sincerely,  
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
GORDON S. SMITH

G. S. Smith,  
Associate Secretary  
to the Cabinet.

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