

September 23, 1963

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PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERTSON

Security Matters

Thank you for your note on the security reports which I sent you. I trust that they did not contribute to the reasons for your being able to read them.

(I am attaching two papers which were prepared some time ago describing the security appeals systems in the United States and the United Kingdom. These, as you will see, were taken into account in the Security Panel's deliberations during the preparation of the Draft Security Review Order which we expect the Cabinet Committee to look at in the near future. While both of these papers were prepared some years ago, it is my understanding that there has been no basic change in the system in either country. (One interesting point, however, is that in a recent conversation with the MI(5) Liaison Officer, who is based in Washington, I was told that the number of appeals presently made against security decisions in the United Kingdom is greatly reduced from what it was at the beginning, and that they now amount to no more than two or three a year. It has always been difficult, and still is, to determine from the Americans the extent to which their security hearing procedure has been and is being used.)

(Concerning the question of homosexuality as it relates to security, I am attaching a copy of a memorandum which was prepared by a special group of the Security Panel almost three years ago, and directed to the then Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. After many delays and postponements, the memorandum was discussed briefly and rather inclusively last March with the then Minister of Justice. The one point upon which agreement was reached was that relating to the programme of research which I had mentioned to you earlier, the purpose of which was to determine whether it would be possible to devise acceptable means of testing persons to

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determine whether or not homosexual tendencies were present, in order that such persons would not be appointed to positions considered vulnerable to blackmail for intelligence purposes. On the basis of this agreement, I was able to interest the Defence Research Board in a modest programme of research to this end, and it appears now to be proceeding satisfactorily and with some promise. This is a subject which I should like to discuss with you at an appropriate time, as it is one which has been of considerable concern to the R.C.M. Police, and indeed to a number of Deputy Ministers and senior officials throughout the government service. With some modifications and brought up to date, the memorandum could appropriately be put to the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence, perhaps at its second meeting. Meanwhile, I propose to ask the Commissioner of the R.C.M. Police to let us have a report on the present situation in this troubled area.]

Concerning our forthcoming meeting of the Security Panel, which I have now set for 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 27th, a point has arisen concerning membership on which I should like to have your guidance. Paul Pelletier called this afternoon, wondering whether he should attend on behalf of the Civil Service Commission, in light of his recent appointment as Deputy Minister of Veterans' Affairs. I said I thought you would be grateful if he could attend, as Mr. MacNeill has not yet been able to participate in the deliberations of the Security Panel, and as Mr. Pelletier's long experience in this field would be helpful to the Panel in its consideration of the questions relating to R.C.M. Police investigations and the proposed meeting with the members of the New Democratic Party. He would be most happy to come along if you feel it would be appropriate, and I am inclined to think it would. As to future membership, there is no question in my mind that the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission must participate in the work of the Security Panel, whereas I doubt that there is a legitimate case for the Deputy Minister of Veterans' Affairs to remain a member ex-officio.

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Concerning the third item on the agenda for the proposed meeting of the Security Panel, a possible meeting with members of the H.D.P., Mr. Beavis and I will prepare a draft memorandum for the Cabinet Committee setting out some of the main points which Messrs. Douglas, Knowles, Cameron and Fisher have recently made relating to security and will attempt, as you suggest, to point up some of the things that should emerge from such a meeting in order that discussion both in the Panel and the Cabinet Committee might be usefully focussed. I hope to be able to send this out to you late tomorrow or early on Wednesday.

Perhaps you would let me have your comments, if you have not already had a surfeit of these often unpleasant matters.

D.F.W.

Privy Council Office,  
September 23rd, 1963.

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