

Dec. 16, 1963

PCO file

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CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERTSON

Revised Cabinet Directive on Security

You will probably have noted that the estimates of the Department of Justice, including those of the R.C.M. Police, were passed by the House of Commons on Friday night. There was very little discussion of security problems, and Mr. Orlikow indicated that the members of his Party were prepared to wait a reasonable time and "to give the Government a chance to work out a policy and report to the House, before we discuss the problem further". He went on to say that they would deal with the matter during the next session and would "expect to have a pretty clear detailed explanation rather than the fairly good but rather vague and general statements recently made by the Prime Minister and himself".

In light of this development, it would now seem appropriate to seek the Prime Minister's approval for the distribution of the new Directive to departments and agencies. While no difficult cases have arisen in the interim, a number of security officers have asked for information and advice on the new procedures, and I would therefore think it useful to get the Directive out pretty soon.

In light of the view expressed by Orlikow, I doubt that the government need consider further at this time the proposals made by Messrs. Diefenbaker and Brewin for a more judicial kind of review. I had an opportunity to discuss these with Mr. Chevrier last week in relation to his appearance on the French television network, and put to him again the arguments which you had set out in your note to the Prime Minister of some

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weeks ago. He seemed prepared to accept these, although he feared that this stand would be criticized. Under present circumstances, however, I think we should move ahead as planned, and not attempt to make any change in the Directive as finally approved by the Government, nor to make any part of it public.

Would you consider mentioning this to the Prime Minister and letting me have his reaction and yours?

*DFW*

D.F.W.

December 16, 1963.

*H. Wall*

*Spoke to the P.M. He agrees that the directive can now go out.*

*WHR*  
*17/xii/63.*

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