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December 6, 1967.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. STONER:

Meeting of the Security Panel - Friday,  
December 8th at 2.30 p., in the P.C.C.R.

I attach the Agenda and documents to be considered at Friday's meeting of the Security Panel. The following comments may be of some assistance:

Item I. - Citizenship Security - Charles BOYLAN

The question raised here is essentially whether the present provisions in the Citizenship Act for Ministerial discretion in the granting of citizenship should be retained. To my knowledge, this discretion has only been used in the past in cases where security was a factor, and if it were decided in this case to grant citizenship, any further use of Ministerial discretion for this purpose would be subject to serious criticism. I think Steele's purpose in bringing this forward is to seek the Panel's confirmation of the earlier criteria for rejection on security grounds, and also to determine whether there are means by which the Minister responsible might exercise more frankness in making public the reasons for these rejections. It is difficult to see how this might be done, but I think it is useful that the Panel discuss it. It is probable that Ernie Steele and Ross Martin will attend for consideration of this item.

Item II. - Access to Public Records

I believe you have already seen this draft memorandum to the Cabinet, the general lines of which R.G.R. had earlier approved. As the covering note indicates, the purpose in referring it to the Panel is simply to have its views on the adequacy of the security

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provisions in paragraph 5. While some members of the Panel may be tempted to discuss the substance of the paper itself, I think the discussion should be limited as much as possible to the security aspects, as the whole problem is essentially one of records management rather than of security. Because of the extensive consultation we had with Kaye Lamb during the preparation of the paper, and because of the Panel's limited purpose in examining it, I have not asked Lamb to attend the meeting.

Item III - Hearings in Relation to Dismissals on Security Grounds

I think the purpose here should be to determine some of the problems which will be raised by attempting to draft general regulations to deal with hearings in relation to dismissals on security grounds, and that the Panel should not attempt to draft such regulations at the meeting. I understand that External Affairs are trying their hand at a draft, and we would be grateful to see their effort and eventually go over it with Don Thorson and others. I think we should, however, try to keep the discussion largely within the confines of the questions raised in the paper and others which may arise during discussion. It should be borne in mind that whatever regulations eventually emerge will have to be very carefully and deliberately drawn up in order to avoid the many pitfalls inherent in the holding of hearings of this kind. As we do not foresee the need for such regulations in the near future, we should make use of the time available for the most careful study of the matter possible, bearing in mind that the Royal Commission on Security will also be expressing its views in due course.



D.F.W.

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