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SP-234

January 24, 1969.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECURITY PANEL:

Report of the Royal Commission on Security

In a memorandum dated November 20, 1968 (SP-233), members of the Security Panel were asked to examine the "Revised Draft Publishable Version" of the Report of the Royal Commission on Security with a view to making recommendations to the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence concerning its publication in whole or in part. Prior to its consideration by the Panel, however, the Solicitor General requested that a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence be convened to consider whether any version of the Report should be published.

After a lengthy discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of publishing a version of the Report, the following conclusion was arrived at:

"The Committee agreed that the Security Panel be asked to study the Report of the Royal Commission on Security with a view to preparing for consideration by the Cabinet Committee

- (a) an abridged version of the Commission's Report which might be published, if so decided, the abridgement to be made on the basis of excluding material that appeared to come within the following principles: references, views or information
  - (i) that would damage Canada's relations with allied and friendly countries;
  - (ii) which the Commissioners had committed themselves not to reveal publicly;
  - (iii) that might reveal such defensive techniques and procedures as would be directly helpful to a potential enemy;

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- (iv) that appeared to demonstrate exploitable weaknesses in our system of security defences;
- (v) that might jeopardize the usefulness of, or unduly embarrass, identifiable individuals;
- (vi) that, as a matter of government policy had not been revealed in the past; and
- (vii) that appeared to be particularly delicate or unresolved matters of government policy;

and taking into account substantial errors of fact or important misrepresentations of position in the main Report,

- (b) a report on the nature and extent of errors of fact or misrepresentations in the Commission's Report; and
- (c) a further report on the substance of the Commission's report and its recommendations."

It should be noted here that, in discussion at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee (as well as in subsequent discussions with the Chairman and the Secretariat of the Security Panel) the R.C.M. Police argued forcibly against the publication of major portions of the Report on the grounds that, in their view, criticisms of the Force embodied therein were not based on fact nor on evidence which the R.C.M. Police had supplied to the Commission, and that publication would seriously damage the Force's effectiveness and morale. In response to these arguments the Cabinet Committee, as is indicated above, requested that the Security Panel prepare, in addition to a "publishable version" of the Report and an assessment of the substance of the Report and its recommendations, a further report on the nature and extent of errors of fact or misrepresentations in the Report.

The Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence having confirmed the criteria for deletion set out in Security Panel Document SP-233, it would seem advisable that the Panel direct its attention to the "Revised Draft Publishable Version" of the Report which was sent to members in November 1968 and which was prepared on the basis of those criteria. While it is recognized that the deletions and modifications represented in that version may not meet the views of all members of the Security Panel, some time and effort can be saved in considering that version rather than the complete Report. Attached is an index of major omissions from and amendments to the classified version of the Report, with related paragraph and line references to it and paragraph references to the "Draft Publishable Version".

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The attention of the Security Panel is therefore drawn to the directions of the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence as set out in paragraph two above.

D.F. Wall,  
Secretary.

Privy Council Office,  
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