

Possible Statement to be made by the Prime
Minister, Acting Prime Minister or the
Solicitor General on Governmental Action
Taken on the Recommendations of the Royal
Commission on Security.

(Based on Abridged Report June, 1969)

I. Organization for Security

The recommendation that there be established in the Privy Council Office a formalized security secretariat to formulate security policy and procedures and to supervise the implementation of Government security policies and regulations has not been accepted as such. There has for a number of years been a small Security Secretariat in the Privy Council Office whose functions are to assist in the organization of Cabinet business as it relates to security and also in the business of interdepartmental committees dealing with security matters. Its essential functions are advisory and coordinative, and it was considered that to provide such a secretariat with the authority recommended by the Royal Commission would be in conflict with the basic principles that security is a departmental responsibility.

There has been established, however, a new inter-departmental advisory committee on security on which are represented senior officials of those government departments and agencies most directly concerned with security policy such as the Department of the Solicitor General, the RCMP Security Service, the Departments of National Defence, External Affairs, Justice, Manpower and Immigration, the Public Service Commission, the Department of Supply and Services and others. The Privy Council Office provides the secretariat for this committee.

In addition, the Solicitor General has recently established within his department a Security Planning and Research Group, an advisory body, to provide more consistent long term analyses of security problems and to formulate security policy proposals for government consideration.

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Details of this group were announced to the House by the Solicitor General on September 21, 1971.

The recommendation that there be established a new civilian non-police agency to perform the functions of a security service in Canada was not accepted. As the Prime Minister indicated in his statement to the House of Commons on June 26, 1969, it was the Government's intention to ensure that the Directorate of Security and Intelligence of the RCMP would grow and develop as a distinct and identifiable element within the basic structure of the Force, and would be more responsive in its composition and character to the national security requirements described by the Royal Commissioners. Steps have been taken along these lines, and will continue to be taken to ensure that the Security Service under the Commissioner of the RCMP will be increasingly separate in structure and civilian in nature. The functions of the Directorate of Security and Intelligence are very similar to those proposed by the Royal Commission.

II. Personnel Security

The current policies and procedures in relation to personnel security in the Public Service are and have been for some years very closely in accordance with the detailed recommendations made by the Royal Commission. In particular, the criteria for security screening are, with a few minor exceptions, almost precisely those recommended and were indeed those in effect at the time the Royal Commission made its study. These policies and procedures are currently under review.

III. Review Procedures

In his statement to the House on June 26, 1969, the Prime Minister indicated that the Government had decided to

accept the Commissioners' recommendation for the establishment of a Security Review Board. He further stated that full details of the scope, character and operation of the Board were still under consideration, and that they might differ in some respects from the Commissioners' recommendations. It was, however, agreed to accept the three basic principles under which such a system of review might operate in the areas of employment, immigration and citizenship. They were:

- (1) that the individuals concerned be given as many details as possible of the factors which had entered into the decisions;
- (2) that the decisions of the Review Board could only be advisory; and
- (3) that the importance of expertise and understanding in security matters is such that the same Board should review contentious decisions in all three areas.

As one of the most important areas in which the Review Board would operate is that of immigration, and as the Government is presently in the process of determining the nature of appropriate amendments to the immigration legislation, it has not yet been possible to determine with precision how a Review Board would operate in this complex area. When the necessary decisions have been taken on that legislation, it is expected that a Review Board will be established without delay.

IV. Immigration

The majority of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission concerning immigration are acceptable, either as a whole or in large part, to the Department of Manpower and Immigration. The department is presently formulating

for presentation to Parliament extensive amendments to the Immigration Act and Regulations, several of which proposed amendments will reflect the Royal Commission's recommendations as well as a number of other requirements which have arisen since the Commission submitted its report. Of those recommendations which require administrative rather than legislative action, some are in the process of implementation, and others will depend upon the nature and scope of the proposed Security Review Board and other decisions yet to be taken by the Government as a whole.

V. Citizenship

The Government has not yet reached a decision on the recommendation with respect to citizenship made by the Royal Commission on Security. However, in his current review of the Citizenship Act and in considering citizenship applications the Minister responsible for citizenship is bearing in mind the statements and opinions expressed by the Royal Commission. When the Security Review Board is established it will be available for advice on cases in the citizenship field as well as in the other areas of employment and immigration.

VI. Passports

The recommendation that all applicants for a passport who claim to have been born in Canada should be required to produce their birth certificate or some other acceptable proof of birth and that all applicants claiming to be naturalized citizens should continue to be required to produce their citizenship certificates was implemented on January 22, 1969. The recommendation that facilities for the issuance of passports be decentralized in order that all applicants might be required to appear personally before an appropriate official has been implemented in some degree. Regional passport offices have been in operation in Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto since

April, 1970 and two additional offices which have just opened in Halifax and Edmonton. These offices accept only personally presented applications, except for those presented by travel agencies and account for approximately 40% of the volume of the passport office business.

Concerning the recommendation that applications for a further passport when one has been lost be delayed until the validity of the original has expired, positive action has been taken. In January, 1969, the policy of renewing passports or extending the normal five-year period of validity was abolished thus automatically invalidating a large number of lost or stolen passports. Applicants for replacement passports must now file with the passport issuing authority a statutory declaration of affidavit outlining the circumstances of the loss and steps taken to recover the passports.

VII. Departmental Security

Steps have been taken by a number of departments, and particularly by those with the heaviest security responsibilities to create effective departmental security organizations headed by a trained security officer at the senior level. Additional steps have been taken in the preparation of departmental security regulations and in the provision of training for departmental security staff. Advice is available to departments from the Security Secretariat in the Privy Council Office, from the RCMP Security Service and from the Security Services Branch of the Department of Supply and Services. Inspections are made by the RCMP Security Service on request from departments.

The specific recommendations made in relation to the Department of External Affairs have been given careful consideration. It was decided that the establishment of a separate security division of that Department would provide

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no particular advantage as the departmental security unit already has an establishment of divisional proportions. In view of the very close relationship between departmental security and national security and intelligence matters, it is considered essential that departmental security remain an integral part of the Security and Intelligence Liaison Division. The remaining recommendations in relation to this department have in essence been put into effect.

Concerning the Department of National Defence, two recommendations were made concerning security investigations and separatist activities within the Armed Forces. Concerning the first recommendation, it was considered desirable to continue the present practice of conducting security investigations of both military and civilian personnel by the Military Security and Investigation Service, as it is working satisfactorily and as the RCM Police could not at present absorb this additional work-load. The Military Security and Investigation Unit applies the same standards and operates in close cooperation with the RCMP. Furthermore, there are administrative advantages to the Department of National Defence in having these investigations handled by a single investigative unit.

Concerning separatist activities in the Armed Forces, existing departmental regulations governing political activities preclude any officer or man of the regular forces from taking an active part in the affairs of any political organization or party. Separatist activities in this respect are, therefore, precluded by this regulation. Normal security policies and procedures are adequate to deal with separatist activities connected with subversive or terrorist organizations. In this context, the integrity of the members of the Forces has been demonstrated consistently in their service to the country

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and particularly in the crisis of October ~~last~~ 1970.

VIII. Industrial Security

Subsequent to the Government's receipt of the Report of the Royal Commission on Security steps were taken by the Industrial Security Branch of the Department of Supply and Services to meet its recommendations concerning both industrial and departmental security. The officer complement of the branch has been increased by a number of officers with extensive background knowledge in the security function. In addition, the staff of the regional offices has been supplemented. Through a series of seminars and addresses, the general standard of cooperation between Government industrial security authorities and individual companies has been significantly improved, as has the calibre of company security officers. Delays in obtaining a security clearance for industrial workers have been markedly reduced through establishing closer working contact with the investigative agency and through establishing a system of priorities. Industrial security procedures between Canada and the United States have been expedited by more adequate staffing of the Canadian Industrial Security Liaison Office in Washington and by interchanges of visits. In addition, in terms of departmental security, a number of measures have been taken to rationalize and improve both personnel and physical security procedures.

IX. Security of Information

The detailed recommendations concerning the security of information have been implemented in large part. In particular, the Government policy on the release of official documents for historical and other research purposes was announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on May 30, 1969. The question of classification and declassification

of government documents is now being studied at the official level. In addition, the Department of the Solicitor General is undertaking a complete review of the Official Secrets Act with a view to a large-scale revision.

V. Physical, Technical and Communications Security Sources and Techniques

Steps have been taken, particularly in buildings housing sensitive information, to provide additional security guards, entry control and other measures necessary to provide adequate physical security. The centralization of all technical security agencies is still under consideration. Proposed legislation concerning the interception of telephone conversations and electronic eavesdropping is now before the House. No consideration has been given the recommendation to permit the examination of the mail of persons suspected of being engaged in activities dangerous to the security of the state.

Finally, mention was made earlier of the establishment of a new interdepartmental advisory committee on security. Additional steps have also been taken by the government to provide for better coordination of security and intelligence policies and work by re-structuring the interdepartmental committee organization in this field. Since the publication of the Report of the Royal Commission on Security in 1969, the events in Quebec of October 1970, the growth of a separatist movement in Quebec, the proliferation of militant groups in Canadian society and continuing social unrest, nationally and internationally, has emphasized the need for a re-examination of objectives and priorities for the collection and analysis of information on which to base internal security intelligence estimates. Good coordination of the related functions of security and intelligence is essential in the national interest and the government has taken measures to bring this about.

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