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x S-1-22(c)

March 2nd, 1972.

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS FAIRBAIRN:

Attached for your information and of course for the information and use of the Prime Minister as you see fit, are two important papers which I think bring us up-to-date with respect to security organization.

The first is a memorandum SP-238 prepared in June 1970 which was intended for the Security Panel but never discussed by that body. You will note that it takes each recommendation related to personnel security and having discussed the item poses questions for decisions. From what I have been able to determine decisions on all of these matters are still pending.

The second document is a proposed statement for the Prime Minister to make in the House which was put together for him in May or June of 1971. As far as I have been able to determine that statement has never been used. In cooperation with Robin Bourne the statement has been up-dated. All of the material in it which is underlined is the material which brings the paper up to the present date.

As we agreed in our telephone conversation it would be wise if we could save the Prime Minister from having to discuss the terms of reference and structure of the three new committees at the official level set up to coordinate security and intelligence. As you know, this structure was approved at the last meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence and is now functioning. Hopefully the Prime Minister could avoid direct comment on these committees by simply stating that a new interdepartmental advisory structure for the purpose of coordinating security matters at the official level is being implemented. Such a statement might well be used instead of the second paragraph of the second attached document. As we have just agreed on the telephone you might wish to delete those references to citizenship and passports from a statement if the Prime Minister is forced to make one.

The matter of the Security Review Board is still outstanding and while, as you will recall, the Prime Minister has mentioned in the House that the

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government accepts in principle this concept, the manner in which it will be implemented is still being worked out. I have learned that a document prepared in February 1971 by Mr. Turner was deferred by the Cabinet Committee for later consideration because of its very close relationship to proposed changes in the Immigration Act and Regulations. Since immigration legislation is not likely to be introduced for a while and whatever changes are made in the interim could well be administrative, we might revive the issue of the Security Review Board and have the Committee consider it on its own merits.

With respect to leaks it would be best if the Prime Minister could avoid getting involved in a discussion of any one or more of them. Hopefully he could summarize the situation by saying that in each case Ministers did conduct investigations, some of which are not complete but which in any case have not as yet revealed any person who might be guilty of misconduct. It is my conclusion, having reviewed each one of these instances, that the most efficient and productive way we can come to grips with the problem is to follow through with the Cabinet Decision to review document control in Ministers' offices and in any case to tighten up our whole system of document distribution as well as control.

As you know I will be away all of next week. In my absence Major Lemieux will be ready to help you with any further information.

W.R.L.

Privy Council Office,
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