

Earlier documents

*S-1-6
P.C. files*

CONFIDENTIAL

March 15, 1978.

*22/3/78
JF*

See notes on docs.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FINN

Attached are drafts of the following for your consideration:

- (1) Memorandum to Cabinet, submitting for approval and explaining (2), (3) and (4).
- (2) Directive on personnel security clearance, revised to incorporate changes agreed on by Cabinet on 28 April 1977, and by the ICSI on 2 December 1977 and further changes proposed by Roger Tassé - mainly an insertion to cover separatism.
- (3) A statement that might be made when and if the directive is tabled or otherwise made public. The main changes from the previous draft are insertions to explain the section on separatism in the directive, and, with respect to the reference in the directive to "sexual behaviour", a fairly explicit explanation of what is meant, and an explanation of the guidelines being provided to departments on this subject. I am not at all satisfied that I have found words to cover these difficult subjects which any Minister would care to use publicly.
- (4) A memorandum for deputy heads tentatively and improbably entitled "Sexual behaviour, security, and public service employment", everything you wanted to know and were afraid to ask. It is a revamping of the pre-Popham document which dealt only with homosexuality. It has been generalized to cover all forms of sexual behaviour. For example it will now cover the wedding

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guest who was heard to remark, as the bride and groom walked up the aisle, "A charming couple. I've slept with both of them." (Question: should we have a go at providing guidance on all forms of behaviour?) The document makes a pass at covering employment where access to classified information is not concerned, but there is an imbalance and lack of logic here. It is not proposed that the guidelines be tabled with the directive.

You will want to reflect on where we go from here. You mentioned supplying the documents^{to}, and then meeting with, certain PCO people. I can set this up. Then presumably we would go to Reeves Hagan. (Perhaps Mr. Pitfield should be made an courant before that?) Then I ~~go~~^{take} to ICSI and CCSI.

On the other hand, as you know, Mr. Pitfield has suggested to Robin Bourne a more comprehensive approach, involving in addition a classification system, a clearance system for non-national security sensitive information, etc. (the SPUR project). Other things involved could be amendment of the Official Secrets Act, a system of sanctions for unauthorized disclosure, a freedom of information system. There could be an enormous package. And by the time we are ready, there may be a strong view that there should be a better legislative base for security matters. I wonder if, in the near future, and until the post McDonald era ~~arrives~~^{arrives}, anyone will want to make many waves in security policy. And yet the need is great in many of the areas touched ~~in~~^{by} these documents.



Gordon Frazer

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