



THE COMMISSIONER

LE COMMISSAIRE

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO.
VOTRE N°
OUR NO.
NOTRE N°

28 March, 1978

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO DEPUTY MINISTERS AND HEADS OF AGENCIES

Personnel Security Clearance Investigations

An examination of the relevance of the Canadian Human Rights Act to the personnel security clearance investigations conducted by the RCMP in accordance with Cabinet Directive No. 35 has identified the need of a change in policy.

As you know, Section 54 of the Canadian Human Rights Act provides Ministers the authority to exempt from disclosure information relative to national security, in addition to certain other types of information. When viewed in the context of security screening, this means that classified information provided to government departments for purposes other than national security cannot be made exempt from disclosure. Consequently, without the protection this exemption affords, we can no longer provide classified information for non-national security purposes, and are unable to process security screening requests which do not relate to national security nor meet the requirements of Cabinet Directive No. 35.

A letter to this effect was sent to all Departmental Security Officers under date of March 2, 1978.

.../2

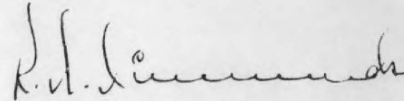
005968

AGC-1547_0001

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

It is realized that this change of policy will have a direct impact on the personnel screening procedures of many departments. The inconvenience this will cause is regretted; however, the provisions of the Canadian Human Rights Act effectively limit the investigative role of the RCMP to only those cases which concern matters of national security.



R.H. Simmonds,
Commissioner.

005969

AGC-1547_0002