

5-1-3

Prime Minister:

Mr. McKinnon  
apparently wishes  
to make a statement  
on this after Q.P.  
I think you should  
discuss it with him  
before you leave the House.  
Jan

November 16, 1979.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Departmental and deputy head  
responsibilities

This item refers to questions concerning the authority of deputy ministers to order investigations and to carry out other responsibilities in relation to security. Indications to the effect that guidelines were issued to deputy ministers in July 1978 are inaccurate.

In July and continuing throughout the fall of 1978, there was a series of proposals designed to form a comprehensive security policy for the Government of Canada. In January 1979 the Trudeau Cabinet approved, in principle, the development of a two-level security classification system and the development of a comprehensive security policy dealing with all aspects of security within the Government of Canada. The decision asked that detailed implementation guidelines be prepared. These guidelines would include department and deputy head responsibilities. The guidelines have not yet been fully developed and have not been approved either by your government or by your predecessor.

Cabinet Directive 35 (attached) in paragraph 1 contains the statement that security in the public service is a part of good personnel administration and therefore the responsibility of each department and agency. Paragraph 13 of the Directive refers to the deputy minister of a department exercising judgment in the granting of security clearances to employees. There are other references to deputy ministers as carrying out responsibilities in the Directive, for example, paragraphs 15 and 17. Cabinet Directive 35, although previously marked confidential, was declassified in 1978 and may be used publicly.

  
T. D. Finn.

Privy Council Office,  
O t t a w a.