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30 August, 1976

Memorandum for file

Meeting with Frank Ward, External Affairs

I met this morning with Frank Ward in External Affairs to discuss security policy in relation to employment of homosexuals.

Frank considers that in general the present policy (as virtually confirmed in the pending revision of CD 35) is appropriate, and should not be changed substantially. He feels that legalization of homosexual relationships between consenting adults, and the greater public acceptance of homosexuality that seems to have developed in recent years, do not justify any relaxation of the security requirements, certainly with respect to External Affairs. There is still the vulnerability to blackmail where there is concealment, and where there is frankness, public acceptance would likely not be forthcoming.

The only aspect where Frank would favour change is the degree of responsibility placed on departments to find alternate employment where clearance is withdrawn and alternate work cannot be found internally. The effort, time, and money spent on this seems excessive. (He referred to a case where an employee was paid for nine months during which period he was not permitted past the front door of the department.)

Frank said there is really no place at all in External Affairs for homosexuals, even in the non-rotational area. Employment abroad would be not only a danger to security but unfair to the individual in view of the vulnerability and the massive nature of the campaign mounted by the enemy to exploit character weaknesses. Particularly since 1969 there has been great vigilance in External Affairs. At the slightest indication of any compromise developing at a post abroad (not only with respect to homosexual relationships, but any exploitable situation e.g. involving blackmarket operations or women) the person is brought home immedia-

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tely. I asked if there could be an arrangement involving greater flexibility at less responsible levels of employment. He did not think this was feasible. He remarked that homosexuals tend to be able, creative people who would be likely to merit promotion. He also emphasized that by their nature they are prone to attracting others.

We discussed the approach that homosexuality is an illness that can be treated and perhaps cured. Frank did not feel very hopeful. He pointed out that homosexuals generally did not themselves accept this approach. (Frank said he had had some advice about homosexuality from Doctor Laidlaw in Health and Welfare. The person to contact now is Doctor LeClair (phone 2-0361). The person to contact in the Public Service Commission is Ken Sinclair.)

Frank remarked that he would refer anyone questioning the policy of External Affairs to John Barron's book "The KGB". He also recommended a new book by Guy Burgess in which apparently Burgess criticizes the Foreign Office for sending homosexuals to posts in Iron Curtain countries.

External Affairs has not yet had to carry any case involving homosexuality to the final stage of the procedures set out in Cabinet Directive No. 35. Any persons involved have realized the possibility of damage to themselves if there was publicity. (Publicity is obviously a greater possibility under the procedures of the Public Service Security Inquiry Regulations.) (He mentioned a case of an employee who was charged and convicted of an offence in Ottawa. His family does not know and he lives in fear of discovery. Apparently where the accused pleads guilty there is little publicity.)

He remarked that relationships between females are less difficult to cope with as women are more likely to disclose their situation. Also it seems that women are less likely to "cruise", and are more likely to have stable relationships. Of course in such cases, (so far anyway) employment is more likely to be at a less responsible level and confinement to the non-rotational area is easier.

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Frank considers Canada to be fortunate in having CD 35 and the policy and procedures set out therein. He said the US had an executive order concerning employment of homosexuals but this had been challenged and was not effective.

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G. Frazer

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