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MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
À

Dr. R. Leclerc

FROM
DE

Dr. W.G. Burrows

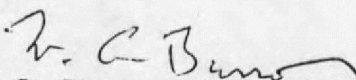
SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE February 4, 1977

SUBJECT
OBJET

REPORT FOR PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE, SECOND DRAFT,
DATED JANUARY 14, 1977

I have reviewed the above-named document with its appen-
dixes as you requested. I feel that an adequate and rounded coverage
of this sometimes difficult topic has been put forward and there is
little that I can add.

I would suggest, however, that the suggestion of psych-
iatric appraisal when an admitted homosexual person is being screened
with a view to being given access to secret and top secret information
is eminently sound. Psychiatric examination would assist materially
in deciding whether the individual's conduct is likely to have a sig-
nificant bearing on how he or she lives up to the requirements of the
position. It should be stressed however, that at this stage of the
evaluation procedure, medical, psychiatric and/or psychological treat-
ment would, in my opinion, be largely worthless as a means of changing
the individual's homosexual orientation to a heterosexual one. As you,
and the writers of the document are aware, changing public attitudes
towards homosexuality have largely discredited the previous acceptance
of this condition as an "illness". Indeed, the vast majority of homo-
sexual persons are quite comfortable in their sexual orientation and
have no motivation to seek change. In my clinical experience, the
only homosexual patients I have dealt with have been individuals who
have either made a cursory attempt at therapy as a result of some out-
side pressure from an agency such as the courts or family members; or
who have sought therapy in order to cope with the conflicts and anxiety
their sexual orientation has caused them in a society which may be
unsympathetic or even hostile. Such people have no interest in changing
their sexual orientation per se. Finally, I would firmly agree with
the principle that each case must be dealt with on its own merits and
that in each case the possible benefits an individual might contribute
to an agency or department, must be carefully weighed against the
potential risks posed by a homosexual orientation.


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F.R.C.Psych., F.A.C.P.