

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET DOCUMENT

No. 252/55

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINETSecurity Screening of Government Employees

The Security Panel has reviewed Cabinet Directive No. 24 of October 16, 1952, which contains the present policy and procedures for security within the public service and defence industry. In the light of experience gained in the past three years, the Panel wishes to recommend a number of changes which include two modifications already approved by the Cabinet. A draft of a new directive is submitted with this memorandum.

2. The section headed POLICY has been expanded to give more guidance to departments and agencies, and in particular to stress the need for full information and the care with which a judgement based upon that information is to be made. In addition, this section now recognizes in paragraph 5 that security considerations are sometimes present where access to classified information is not necessarily involved. Decisions in these cases, however, are particularly difficult and we suggest should therefore not be taken without reference to the Security Panel.

3. The section headed PROCEDURES now contains a requirement that all persons to have access to classified information must first be fingerprinted. This procedure was approved by the Cabinet on November 26, 1953, and has been in effect since that date.

4. In addition this section now contains a requirement that all persons to have access to Confidential information are to be subject to a file check by the R.C.M. Police. The Security Panel considers this a necessary additional precaution, and the Commissioner of the R.C.M. Police has agreed to undertake the work on a three months' trial basis to ensure that facilities are adequate to handle it effectively.

5. Finally, at paragraph 17, departments and agencies will in future be required to provide the Security Panel quarterly with figures of security cases in order that the Panel and ministers, if they so desire, may from time to time examine in greater detail the extent of the security problem within the public service.

R.B. Bryce,
Chairman of the Security Panel.

Privy Council Office,
Ottawa, December 19th, 1955.

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