

**CONFIDENTIAL**

HQS 9365-1 (MI-S)  
7 Jul 58

Security Cases Involving Character Weaknesses  
Draft Paper for Security Sub-Panel

1. While excessive drinking and homosexuality are considered in some detail in the draft paper, certain other character weaknesses are encountered as frequently by security officers, eg, criminal tendencies, immorality, indebtedness and mental illness. In fact, cases involving stability and other psychiatric disorders are no longer the exception and are far more prevalent than those involving homosexuality. In such cases a decision as to restriction or refusal of clearance can and should only be made after expert (medical) advice has been received. A character weakness such as persistent immorality especially on the part of a female employee may be only a question of personnel selection and not of security but at the same time such conduct could be indicative of such instability as to be a security matter.

2. A decision to withhold or restrict clearance is never based on a single act but is taken after a well-defined pattern of conduct has been established extending over a considerable period of time. Even then, in many cases, it is the intention of the clearing authority that the restriction be removed as soon as the individual demonstrates that he has overcome the particular defect or weakness. For example, in certain cases the clearance will read "granted clearance to **CONFIDENTIAL** only at this time". In many cases it is suggested that the clearance be reviewed after a period of time, say two years, with the view to upgrading. To a certain extent the suggestion contained in para 8 of the draft paper is now in operation in the Department of National Defence (Army), and in some cases the employee's superior officer is instructed to counsel the employee or soldier in respect to his drinking habits, indebtedness, etc.

3. A review of cases where an individual's clearance has been restricted or refused shows that only in a very few exceptional cases has this action resulted in loss of employment for the individual. Satisfactory employment on unclassified work or in positions giving access to less highly classified information has always been found for these people. In the few cases where the individuals have been released, they would have been dismissed or released in any event on the basis of unsatisfactory service even if the security factor was not involved.

4. Listed at Appendix "A" hereto are a number of security cases handled by DMI during the past 2-3 years which illustrate the points mentioned in this memorandum.

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Appendix "A" to  
HQS 9365-1 (MI-S)  
Dated: 7 Jul 58

## CHARACTER WEAKNESS

### DETAIL

### ACTION

#### CASE I

#### Drinking

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. During wartime service subject had 12 misconduct charges, incl 2 of drunkenness.  | SECRET clearance requested.   |
| b. During second term of service (from 1955) he has had one charge of drunkenness and one charge of improper use of vehicles.  | CONFIDENTIAL only granted <u>at this time</u> .   |
| c. Subject has had the following civil convictions -<br><br><u>Oct 55</u> - driving while impaired-Fined \$75.00 and costs.<br><u>Nov 55</u> - careless driving-Fined \$15.00 and costs.<br><u>Sep 49</u> - charged with being drunk and disabled. Charges withdrawn as Subject had been injured in accident arising from his condition. | Subject retained in unit and employed on work where he does NOT require access to SECRET information. |
| d. Has shown irresponsible attitude towards his legal debts.   |   |

#### CASE II

#### Debts

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Indebtedness, sufficient to promote his release from CA (R) in Sep 54. | a. Subject had SECRET clearance while in CA(R). |
|---|---|

#### Criminal Convictions

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| b. <u>Sep 55</u> - 2 charges false pretences - sentenced one month in gaol on each. | b. Applicant for civilian position of draftsman <del>for</del> requiring clearance to CONFIDENTIAL or higher-clearance refused. Applicant NOT accepted by DND. |
| c. <u>Apr 56</u> - convicted on 4 charges of false pretences.                       |  |

#### CASE III

#### Mental Illness

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Subject has history of mental illness over several years incl shock treatment in 1954 - diagnosed as "Manic Depressive Psychosis - later as acute and severe anxiety state (Subject's husband who has long record of irresponsibility and indebtedness considered to be contributing factor.) | Subject employed in DM's office and SECRET clearance requested Feb 58 - clearance refused by DMI. Subject transferred to non-sensitive position with Dept Northern Affairs. |
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Appendix "A" to  
HQS 9365-1 (MI/S)  
Dated: 7 Jul 58

## CHARACTER WEAKNESS

## DETAIL

## ACTION

### CASE IV

#### Alcoholic Indebtedness

- a. Hospitalized in 1954 while in RCAF-  
"acute alcoholism".
- b. Subject warned by Chief Clerk 14  
May 57 re absenteeism due to sus-  
pected alcoholism, debts especially  
to fellow workers.
- c. Off-duty 16-29 May 57 medical cer-  
tificate diagnosis "acute alcohol-  
ism".
- d. Investigation in May 57 revealed  
Subject had been giving unauthor-  
ized information to finance com-  
panies and that outstanding debts  
amounted to \$1200.00.

a. SECRET clearance  
granted by DMI 6 Jan  
56-withdrawn 12 Jun 57.

b. Subject placed in  
position by DCP where  
he does NOT have  
access to classified  
information.

c. Reports received  
May 58 indicates  
Subject member AA  
paying off debts and  
engaged to reliable  
govt employee.

### CASE V

#### Criminal Record Drinking Indiscretion Debts

- a. Subject has police record of 10  
convictions 1939-49 - mainly  
theft, break and entry.
- b. Heavy drinker - when drinking is  
boastful and indiscreet.
- c. Has had many employments - indi-  
cating lack of stability.
- d. Lack of responsibility indicated  
by failure on several occasions  
to take proper care of wife and  
family.
- e. Considerable indebtedness.

Clearance to SECRET  
requested Sep 57 for  
employment JABC  
School-clearance  
refused by DMI.  
Subject transferred  
to non-sensitive  
position RCS of I.

### CASE VI

#### Drinking

Since enlistment in Sep 51, Subject  
has the following record -  
1 charge under Liquor Control Act  
of Ontario (intoxicated in a public  
place)  
2 charges drunkenness  
7 charges AWOL  
2 charges conduct to the prejudice

Granted TOP SECRET  
in Jul 54. Due to  
subject's over-  
indulgence in alcohol  
and fact that when  
under the influence  
of alcohol he becomes  
irresponsible - clear-  
ance reduced to  
CONFIDENTIAL May 57.

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## CHARACTER WEAKNESS

### Drinking Instability

## DETAIL CASE VII

- a. During Army service Aug 51 - May 55, subject had 3 charges incl 2 of drunkenness.
- b. Oct 55 - was fined \$200 and costs as a result of charge of criminal negligence arising out of an accident while driving when impaired.
- c. On re-enlistment Feb 56, PSO noted subject had an abnormal MMPI profile and was below normal in stability.
- d. Feb 57 - Subject was charged with drunkenness and also with "negligent handling of dangerous substances.

## ACTION

- a. Subject was granted SECRET clearance during first enlistment.
- b. SECRET clearance for Subject requested Dec 56 but clearance to CONFIDENTIAL only granted. Suggested special report be submitted by subject's CO in 2 months time when up-grading of clearance would be reviewed.

## CASE VIII

### Morals Drinking

- a. Low moral reputation
- b. Persistent drinking although this has NOT interfered with her work and is considered discreet while "under the influence".

SECRET clearance requested for employment in CR.

DMI granted CONFIDENTIAL. Comd took action to restrict her access to that level and will transfer to unclassified work when opportunity arises.

## CASE IX

### Drinking Indiscreet

A young woman (20) who drinks to excess and lacks discretion while "under the influence".

SECRET clearance requested but only CONFIDENTIAL granted "at this time". Subject's employment restricted to handling material no higher than CONFIDENTIAL.

## CASE X

### Mental Illness

- a. Released from RCN (WREN) Nov 54 - diagnosis "schizo-prenic reaction, paranoid type" - extremely vulnerable to breakdown under stress.
- b. Four out of six previous employers would not recommend due to unsatisfactory service.

TOP SECRET requested for employment in highly sensitive position. Clearance refused and Subject released on adm grounds.

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Appendix "A" to  
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## CHARACTER WEAKNESS

## DETAIL

## ACTION

### CASE XI

Sexual  
Deviate

Convicted on charge of gross indecency Nov 53.

Applicant for  
Inspector of Stores,  
Gr 3, with Inspection  
Services - SECRET  
clearance required. DMI  
refused clearance -  
Applicant rejected.

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