

REF. NO. ....

MEMORANDUM TO


Cpl. McKay

With reference to your undated memo, which is returned herewith. I have discussed the problem with the Acting D.S.I. as to the extent of our responsibilities vis-a-vis character weaknesses in dealing with various Government agencies. In the absence of any specific procedures or policies recommended to us by the Security Panel, it is necessary to be guided by the general policy as outlined in Cabinet Directive No. 29.

2. The Cabinet Directive as well as other relevant documents indicate that our interest in character weaknesses is to be exclusively devoted only when character actually has a bearing on the security status of a prospective employee. By virtue of this reasoning, it becomes obvious that if a person does not have access to any classified information, we are not in any way obligated to supply the Department concerned with any information having a bearing on such a weakness.

3. It is fully realized that it is somewhat problematical when advice is received from the agencies to the effect that an employee is favoured with "sensitive employment". "Sensitive employment" could very well mean access to classified information but not necessarily to what can be considered as highly classified or top secret. It is now realized that we have perhaps erred in the past in asking these agencies whether an employee had access to "highly classified" information. We now feel that access to classified information, irrespective of its category, warrants our reporting to the agencies any character defects. In future, when communicating with the agencies, we should request advice as to whether or not the person has access to classified information. We cannot deviate from our present policy of dealing with each case on its own merits.

4. I believe that some authorities within the Department of National Health & Welfare have maintained that homosexuality is a disease that can be cured and in fact that it should not be a bar to all employment. The indiscriminate release of this type of information can reflect adversely on the Force unless we are in a position to justify the reason why this information was supplied.

  
(J.E.M. Barrette), Inspector,  
Officer i/c "A" Branch.

OTTAWA  
5-5-61  
JEMB/CAV

*Adm. the King's Rep. Sec.*

*Adm. 15-5-61*

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