

Brief for: Chairman, Joint Security Committee

Item III of Agenda for 28th Meeting of Security Sub-Panel - Security Cases Involving Character Weaknesses

It should be the object of the Sub-Panel to produce a paper for the Panel setting out clearly:

- a) why character information is required;
- b) what it consists of;
- c) how it is analysed;
- d) what action is taken on it and in what manner.

2. It is suggested that you encourage the Sub-Panel to draft out a format for such a paper and not try to prepare one at the meeting although various aspects should be discussed. It might be suggested that a small working party be appointed to write it, all members having had experience in report analysis.

3. The paper should avoid generalities such as one found in the present document. It should not play up "name" cases which prove nothing but try to show the practical side of the subject. It should show the many facets of character which are dealt with and the degree and substantiation of the information. It should avoid the present dreadful preoccupation with undefined alcoholism and homosexuality.

4. The document should not attempt to use spectacular cases where persons of poor character have been bribed etc., as its main argument but merely to set out the subject clearly and in detail. If reasonable examples are shown it will be obvious that the subjects should not be in positions of trust.

5. It should be emphasized that Government practise on this subject is exactly the same as that in use in almost any business or industry. As a minor example, no restaurant would employ a person with a history of unreliability as a cashier. No industry would employ in its engineering department any person who might give away secrets to a competitor. This type of thing should be given a reasonably prominent place in the paper to the Panel in order to ensure that there is no feeling that Government servants are treated any differently from anyone else.

6. A paragraph, with supporting examples, should be included which would show the breakdown of character detail.

7. A paragraph should be included showing how this information is analysed and pointing out that any one weakness is not necessarily sufficient to cause a lowering of the security clearance. Only when one or a combination of weaknesses has reached the point where the person in charge can no longer have confidence in the subject's reliability is a decision made to remove him.

8. Another paragraph should be added to show how this is done pointing out that in a great majority of cases no harm is done to the individual; employment is found for him quietly in a place where he does not have access to highly classified information; neither his pay or his career is interfered with. It is only in the most unusual cases where such action cannot be taken. It should be emphasized that all these cases are carefully considered and that decisions are not made by Security Officers but by senior officials in all cases, every consideration possible is given to the employee. 19

9. The paper should recommend that no changes in the existing system should be made.

1. Personnel Separations - Discharge - Undesirable Habits and Traits of Character
2. Personnel Separations - Discharge - Inaptitude or Unsuitability
3. Mental Illness and Classified Information.

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