

SECRETReports on Security Investigations of Public Servants

At the twenty-seventh meeting of the Security Panel, Assistant Commissioner Nicholson, for the R.C.M. Police, advanced the suggestion that the time might be ripe for reconsideration of the method employed in transmitting reports resulting from security investigations on public servants. It was agreed that this matter would be reviewed in detail at the next meeting and that the R.C.M. Police would advance certain concrete proposals in this respect. Certain proposals are embodied below, but a glance at the present method, with its advantages and disadvantages, may not be out of place.

PRESENT PROCEDURE

The three Armed Services, together with a few Departments of Government, receive reports as they are compiled by the investigators in the field. These reports are prepared on a regular police form (C-237) and are forwarded without comment. The assessment of the contents is made by the receivers. All other Departments and Agencies of Government receive a notification to the effect that the investigation or records check has been completed and that:

- (a) Nothing of an adverse nature has been disclosed, or,
- (b) Information which may have a bearing on security is available on request, or,
- (c) Information which, while not bearing strictly on security, may affect the suitability of the person for employment in the public service, is available on request.

When this notification has been received by the Deputy Head, he communicates with the Special Branch of the R.C.M. Police. An officer of this Branch calls on the Deputy Head and makes a verbal report.

This method of reporting has its advantages and disadvantages. The advantages include:

- (a) Almost complete protection of Police sources in Canada and abroad.
- (b) The impossibility of a document falling into the wrong hands.
- (c) The benefit to the Deputy Head of a personal interview with an officer fully conversant with the subversive situation generally.

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The disadvantages include:

- (a) The practical difficulty encountered by one officer in making the requisite calls to keep abreast of the volume of adverse reports.
- (b) The lack of satisfactory record in the Department concerned even when the Deputy Head takes notes during the interview.
- (c) The complication which arises when a Civil Servant is being reported upon and the Civil Service Commission must be consulted.

The procedure of reporting verbally to all but a limited number of Departments was adopted in 1948 as a result of repeated breaches of security in respect to written police reports.

METHODS USED IN THE U.K. AND U.S.

It might be well at this point to consider briefly the methods employed by other countries facing a similar security problem.

In the United Kingdom, the security service (M.I.5) furnishes Departments with a written report prepared in their London office. When all information is collated, a report is prepared in the form of a brief. This report does not reveal sources. In certain doubtful, important, or very delicate cases, the report may be followed up by an interview with an officer of M.I.5 at the request of the responsible official in the Department concerned. The interview is the exception rather than the rule.

In the United States the F.B.I. transmit to Departments copies of the regular reports (similar to the R.C.M. Police C-237) as they are received from the field. These reports bear on them a statement which says in effect that the document is the property of the F.B.I., is issued on loan only and that its contents are not to be communicated to any unauthorized person.

WRITTEN REPORTS

There are advantages and disadvantages inherent in written reports. The advantages include:-

- (a) A more efficient and time saving method of transmission.
- (b) A permanent record in the Department concerned and the Civil Service Commission.
- (c) The elimination of much duplication in verbal reporting.

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Among the disadvantages are:

- (a) The danger of a classified document being lost, stolen or copied.
- (b) The possible compromise of sources.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that some form of written report now be adopted for general use. Changing conditions and a better appreciation of security requirements throughout the Government services indicate that this step is due.

METHOD

There are two alternative methods which might be employed:-

- (a) Continue sending C-237 to Departments and Services which are now receiving these and to provide all other Departments of Government and Agencies with a written brief, or,
- (b) To provide all Services, Departments and Agencies with a written brief.

The adoption of (a) above will cause less of an administrative problem at R.C.M.P. Headquarters Special Branch.

If either of the above alternatives is adopted, it is clear that some form of brief must be prepared at R.C.M. Police Headquarters for distribution. These briefs, in order to obviate any confusion, might follow the colour pattern set by the present "A", "B" and "C" letters. In other words, the report on which there was no adverse information from a security angle would be typed on white paper, adverse security information on pink paper, and information implying character or moral weakness would be typed on yellow paper.

Each of these documents would bear an appropriate warning on the top somewhat similar to that adopted by the F.B.I. No sources would be disclosed but the paper would contain all information required to facilitate an intelligent assessment on the part of the responsible official. In many ways these briefs would be more valuable from that standpoint than would be the possession of an actual form C-237. For instance, an investigator in the field may embody in his report the bare statement of participation in, say, A.U.U.C. activities. The chances are that the Deputy Head has never heard of this organization and may not attach any particular significance to membership therein. A properly written brief would contain some such statement as "The subject is known to be a member of the Communist-dominated (or Communist-front, or Communist-infiltrated) organization known as the 'WXYZ', the activities of which are known to be subversive."

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Some samples of the form which these briefs may take are attached hereto.

ACTION BY SECURITY PANEL

The Panel is requested to consider this proposal.

If the proposal is acceptable the R.C.M. Police is prepared to meet the additional administrative burden but recognizes that the distribution of written reports to all Departments and Agencies involves some security risk. The Panel is therefore requested to consider what steps might be taken to minimize that risk.

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SECRET

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[REDACTED]

Re: William John BLACK

Biographical Data.

February 15th, 1910, Born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of mining engineer. Obtained B. Sc. (mining) Edinburgh University, 1934.

June 10th, 1935, came to Canada, landing Quebec, went to Drumheller, Alberta, where he worked in coal mines as labourer.

May 15th, 1937, married Mary Swystun in Calgary.

July 5th, 1941 until October 15th, 1945 served in Canadian Army. Discharged as captain.

January 5th, 1946, employed National Research Council at Ottawa. Residing 102 Sweetland Avenue.

Political History

1936 - reliably reported active organizer in District 18 - United Mine Workers of America in Drumheller, and close associate of John Stokaluk, known Communist Party member and President of District 18 of U.N.W.A.

1937 - [REDACTED] reported Black to be a member of the Communist Party, Drumheller Branch.

1939 - Black and wife reported in frequent attendance at affairs sponsored by Drumheller Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association (Communist controlled front).

May 9th, 1950, Black reported [REDACTED] to have attended meeting of Ottawa Peace Council (Communist controlled front).

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[REDACTED]

Re: Henry Rudolf MILLER

Biographical Data.

February 12th, 1900 - Born in Hamburg, Germany, where he was educated. Radio Engineer by profession.

April 15th, 1938 - Obtained employment with Department of Transport, Radio Division.

Political History

1935 - [REDACTED] reported this Henry Miller to have been a member of the Communist Party of Canada, in Montreal.

1939 - Documentary evidence available to show active participation in organizing Association of Technical Employees (Communist Infiltrated).

1947 - [REDACTED] reported subject to be an undercover Member-at-Large of L.F.P.

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[REDACTED]

Re: James Arthur STEWART

Biographical Data

March 15th, 1918 - Born at Halifax, N.S., son of a medical doctor. Educated in Edinburgh for medical profession.

May 20th, 1948 - Employed at Ottawa by Department of Health.

Political History

July 1948 - [REDACTED]
reported subject to be a close associate of Henry Rudolf MILLER, alleged Party member.

September 1949 - Reliable information received that subject has been an active supporter of the Civil Liberties Association in Ottawa. (Communist influenced).

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Re: James Samuel BROWN

Biographical Data

February 13th, 1914, born in Montreal, of German origin.

May 4th, 1938, graduated with B.A. degree from McGill University.

Employed as salesman with many firms in Montreal and Toronto.

Character Reports

Four character references given and all interviewed.

One reported general instability, which leads to frequent recourse to excessive drinking.

Another reported that excessive drinking had resulted in loss of credit standing in community. He has borrowed beyond his ability to pay.

Two remaining ~~references~~ feel unable to recommend subject for any position of trust, because of drinking.

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Re: Albert JOHNSON

Biographical Data

July 15th, 1925 - Born in Toronto. Attended School of Commercial Art.

February 10th, 1948 - Employed by National Film Board.

Character Report

June 1949 - An associate of the Johnson family advised that subject's father has long suffered from a mental condition and that subject also passes through periods of mental instability.

January 1950 - Two reliable persons who have personal contact with subject claim he is very easily influenced and has shown a tendency to associate with persons of questionable character.

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[REDACTED]

Re: Charles John SMITH

Biographical Data

November 7th, 1920 - Born in Winnipeg.

February 12th, 1948, Employed as clerk in Department of Mines and Resources.

Character Report

April 15th, 1946 - convicted at Winnipeg on charge of False Pretences (407) - passing worthless cheque - sentence suspended.

June 10th, 1947 - Convicted in Toronto on charge of Theft (386) - stole a watch - sentenced to 30 days imprisonment.

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