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REFERRED TO

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SECURITY SUB-PANEL

CHG'D TO

The 25th meeting of the Security Sub-Panel was held in the Privy Council Committee Room, East Block, on Thursday, January 31, 1957, at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Mr. P.M. Dwyer (Chairman)  
Privy Council Office

Mr. G.G. Crean  
Department of External Affairs

Superintendent K.W.N. Hall  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Group Captain A. Walmsley  
Department of National Defence

Mr. J.K. Abbott  
Department of Citizenship and Immigration

Miss P.L. Hawkes  
Department of Defence Production

Mr. D.F. Wall (Secretary)  
Privy Council Office

Security Policy - Appeal System

The Sub-Panel had for consideration a revised draft memorandum to the Security Panel, setting out an appeal system for dealing with the possible dismissal of government employees on security grounds, together with an explanatory cover note.

(Security Sub-Panel Document SSP-81 and the minutes of the 24th meeting of the Security Sub-Panel refer).

2. The Chairman suggested that the Sub-Panel first consider the revised appeal system, and invited members' comments.

3. A detailed discussion of the proposed system followed, during which a number of editorial emendations were made secretarially. As a result of the discussion, the following points emerged:

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- (a) that there appeared to be a need for more detailed guidance concerning criteria which might be used by departments and agencies in arriving at a decision as to whether or not an employee fell within the definition given in section I of the draft system;
- (b) that an employee whose dismissal on security grounds is being considered should be given the opportunity to resign before any other action is taken; and
- (c) that it appeared to be a matter for the Panel's consideration whether any present member of the public service should be asked to serve as a member of the Appeal Board.

4. The draft appeal system having been considered and a number of suggestions incorporated, the Chairman invited members' comments on the draft cover note.

5. Mr. Crean suggested that the opening paragraph be slightly modified to indicate that the Sub-Panel saw no reason, as a result of the "de-Stalinization" programme in the Soviet Union or recent events in Eastern Europe, to change its views of the risks which prompted its original recommendation that a more stringent policy be adopted.

6. Group Captain Walmsley stated that it was the view of the Joint Security Committee of the Department of National Defence that the cover note should include a recommendation to the effect that close continuing liaison should be maintained between departmental and agency security officers and the secretariat of the Security Panel.

7. Mr. Abbott stated that the cover note appeared to have been written in such a way that the advantages of an appeal system were made to outweigh the disadvantages, and added that the disadvantages foreseen by his department were more numerous and more serious than those set out in the paper under consideration.

8. Group Captain Walmsley stated that the Joint Security Committee of the Department of National Defence had also found the disadvantages of an appeal system to be considerably greater than the advantages, and left with the Secretary a number of points which the Committee felt should be included.

9. A detailed discussion followed, during which a number of basic changes to the cover note were suggested. After certain of these changes had been incorporated secretarially, the Sub-Panel agreed:

- (a) that the draft appeal system be revised in the light of the points set out at paragraph 3 above;
- (b) that the draft cover note also be revised in the light of the foregoing discussion and

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the points raised by the Joint Security Committee, particularly the questions dealing with the advantages and disadvantages of an appeal system; and

- (c) that the revised papers be again considered at an early meeting.

D.F. Wall,  
Secretary of the Security Sub-Panel.

Privy Council Office,  
Ottawa, February 4, 1957.

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