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SECURITY SUB-PANEL

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The 26th meeting of the Security Sub-Panel was held in the Privy Council Committee Room, East Block, on Thursday, February 21, 1957, at 10:45 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Mr. G.G. Crean
Department of External Affairs

Colonel E.S. Tate
Department of National Defence

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

Miss P.L. Hawkes
Department of Defence Production

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. J. Timmerman
Department of External Affairs

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 a revised explanatory cover note.

(Security Sub-Panel Document SSP-82 and the Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Security Sub-Panel refer).

2. At the Chairman's suggestion, the Sub-Panel first considered the draft appeal system, and a few editorial changes were noted secretarially.

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3. In a detailed discussion of the draft cover note, during which a number of editorial changes were incorporated, the following additional points were raised:

- (a) that a further disadvantage of an appeal system, which had not been considered at past meetings, appeared to arise from the fact that the great majority of the security cases within the public service would not in effect warrant dismissal. The only remaining alternatives appeared to be suggested resignation or transfer to a less sensitive post. It did not appear likely that any department would be prepared to accept security transfers while there was the possibility that they would eventually have to prepare these cases for dismissal, with the subsequent possibility of appeal;
- (b) that in cases where actual membership in the Communist party was not a factor and where there was relatively little danger of compromising valuable sources of information, it had sometimes been found possible to clarify cases by interviewing the employee and questioning him directly on the information against him; and
- (c) that in summary, the difficulties foreseen as a result of establishing an Appeal Board appeared to be such that consideration might have to be given to recommending a review of the original proposal to extend security policy to positions in the public service in which there was no access to classified information.

4. The Chairman concluded that, while there had originally been much in favour of the establishment of an appeal system, and while the principles which prompted the present review remained valid, the Sub-Panel appeared to have reached the conclusion that the practical difficulties envisaged in making such a system workable under Canadian circumstances appeared to be such that they outweighed its advantages.

5. After further discussion, the Sub-Panel agreed:

- (a) that the explanatory memorandum to the Security Panel be revised in the light of the foregoing discussion, and in particular the points raised at sub-paragraphs 3(a) and (c) above; and
- (b) that the two revised papers be submitted to the Security Panel for their consideration.

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

Privy Council Office,
Ottawa, February 25, 1957.

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