

10-3-60

SECRET

TO: Deputy Commissioner Harvison

Homosexuality in the Government Service

Mr. Don Wall called at my office yesterday, March 9th, at which time he raised the question of homosexuality within the Government service, and at this time informed me that, because of discussions which had taken place between senior officials of the Department of External Affairs and Mr. R.B. Bryce, the latter had spoken to the Prime Minister in this connection, advising him that a paper would be submitted by the R.C.M.P. dealing with this question as a whole and through the proper channels would, he thought, eventually be a matter to be considered by the Security Panel.

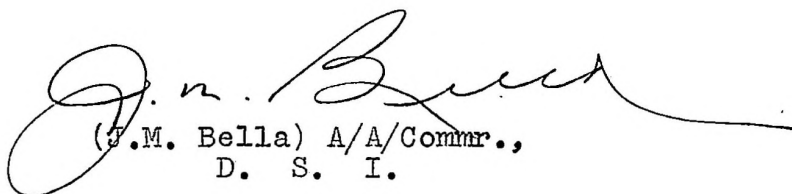
2. Mr. Wall made it quite plain to me that Mr. Bryce in his discussions with the Prime Minister gained the clear impression that the Prime Minister was vitally interested in this whole problem and was very much of the opinion that the situation would have to be studied carefully, not only from the standpoint of the individuals in the Government service who were affected, but just what the dangers were to the security of the country, and that at the moment it seems that the Government would take the stand that this whole situation would have to be gone into most thoroughly in order to ferret out any people who were employed in the Government and who had access to classified material, with a view to seeing what could be done to protect such documents against this sort of thing.

3. It does seem from what Mr. Wall has stated that there is great concern, and I would say at this point that no names were mentioned but I assumed he was referring to such people as Mr. John Holmes who was a very clever gentleman and his loss to the Department of External Affairs is being felt. Mr. Wall further stated that some consideration was being given to taking up this whole question from a medical standpoint to explore the possibility that some treatment might conceivably be available for people like Mr. Holmes and through such treatment this character weakness could be cleared up to a point where they would not be a security risk to the Government of Canada. I pointed out to Mr. Wall that, while I was speaking purely as a layman, I had read up on this subject and from this I had concluded that it was a form of affliction

-2-

which quite often arose from the time of birth and took shape in many different forms, and also that insofar as the R.C.M.P. were concerned we had tackled this matter not from a moral point of view but strictly from a security point of view. Mr. Wall informed me that he has been instructed by his superiors, and I take this to be Mr. Bryce, to consult with a well-known psychiatrist who has had a good deal of experience in this particular field of medical research, and this he intends to do in the very near future.

4. I am submitting this memorandum so that you may be aware of what the situation is at the present time.

  
(J.M. Bella) A/A/Commr.,  
D. S. I.

*Commissioner Harrison has read the  
accompanying paper referred to, dated  
10.3.60, on 6355.9-1-15*

*d/10.3.60*

*[Signature]*  
*26/4/60*

A0053272\_2-000946