

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRYCE

At the meeting of the special group of the Security Panel on August 2nd Mr. Robertson asked Dr. Wake whether he could produce any figures as to the incidence of homosexuality in the population as a whole. Dr. Wake has now supplied the percentages but has reiterated his reservations, which he stated at the meeting, concerning the method of questioning from which these figures come. You will recall that Dr. Wake felt it likely that the Kinsey figures might tend to be higher than expected in view of the fact that the interviewers made the assumption that anyone questioned had had some form of homosexual experience at some time, and therefore, phrased their questions positively: "When did you last have....." or "When did you stop".

Dr. Wake stressed that, in supplying these percentages, he was doing so on the basis that he had distinct reservations about them, but at the same time admitted that these were as good as any other data available to us. He also mentioned, as did Commissioner Harvison at the meeting, that incidence percentages, while perhaps interesting in themselves, did not bear directly on the problems of security which the special committee was considering, but rather were of sociological importance. They could not be taken as a guide to the probable incidence in the group of public servants with access to classified information.

Dr. Wake said that the incidence rate of female homosexuality was of the same order but somewhat lower than that for males.

I thought that you might prefer to make these figures, which are attached to this memorandum as an appendix, available to Mr. Robertson yourself in view of the delicacy with which the subject has been handled so far. Perhaps you might let me know if you consider such an arrangement satisfactory.



D.B.

Privy Council Office,
August 21st, 1961.