

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, February 22nd, 1963.

Mr. W. A. Hoddinott,
Defence Research Board,
Department of National Defence Headquarters,
O t t a w a.

Dear Mr. Hoddinott:

I refer to your letter of February 5th, 1963, and our telephone conversation of February 7th, concerning the security risk involved in employing a female homosexual in a position of trust.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, it is our belief that, insofar as one can safely generalize about matters of this kind, there would appear to be less risk involved in the employment of female than of male homosexuals in sensitive positions. It has been our experience, however, that such generalizations are of very little value in arriving at a judgement as to the risk involved in any particular situation. It is the view of the Security Panel that each case must be judged individually and on its own merits, because so much depends upon the personality of the employee involved, and on the nature of his or her private life in relation to the position he or she holds in a department or agency. It is possible, for example, that a female homosexual of a certain personal makeup would be considerably more vulnerable to blackmail for intelligence purposes than would a male homosexual doing precisely the same kind of work.

For these reasons as well as for a number of others having to do with the formulation of sensible and workable policies and procedures in this rather difficult area of personnel management, the Chairman of the Security Panel has asked us to encourage departmental and agency security officers to discuss with us cases of this kind before action is taken on them.

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It was my understanding that you did in fact wish to discuss a specific case with us, and I should like to assure you that we should be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Yours sincerely,



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

DFW/K