



DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
CANADA

DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

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IC&S)

Ottawa, Ontario
5 February, 1963

Mr. D. Wall,
Secretary, Security Panel,
Privy Council,
East Block,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Wall:

The security guides, not only in Canada but for NATO and U.S. as well, all list sexual perversion as a point to be considered in determining an individual's eligibility for a security clearance. The inherent risk in allowing a homosexual to have access to classified matter is, of course, well recognized when the subject is male. However, we are not at all sure whether or not there is a corresponding risk in the case of lesbians.

The various security agencies have had a fair measure of success in obtaining confession of sexual perversion when the subject is a male, but as far as I can understand there are few documented cases in Canada where a lesbian has actually admitted to such practices. There may be fundamental reasons why this is so, but we are chiefly concerned in the security aspect.

It would seem to us that a lesbian, while being a security risk, is not so in the same order as a male pervert would be. We understand that very few security agencies take action on allegations alone, and usually close the case only after an admission of "guilt" has been obtained. Since we have few such admissions of "guilt" from lesbians we are thus faced with security action on the basis of allegations only, or as alternate to disregard such allegations.

We would be very interested to know whether the Security Panel view all sex perverts similarly or whether, in your opinion, a lesbian is not as great a security risk as a homosexual man. You must understand that we are asking for your opinion only on this matter rather than a policy statement. Your early reply would therefore be much appreciated.

Yours very truly,

(W. A. Hoddinott)
for

Chairman, Defence Research Board

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