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CHAPTER IV

'SPECIAL ACTIVITY' (SA) CLEARANCE - Standards and Criteria

4.1 General

This chapter sets out those provisions required for a Special Activity (SA) clearance which are in addition to those in Cabinet Directive #35 of 18 December 1963. However, these and all provisions of Cabinet Directive #35 apply when decisions are being made to grant or not to grant an SA clearance.

4.2 Responsibility

4.2.1 It is the responsibility of each Authorized Organization to obtain a Special Activity (SA) clearance for each individual to be given access to COMINT material prior to indoctrinating him Category II or III. Whether an SA or Top Secret clearance is required prior to a Category I indoctrination of an individual is at the discretion of the Authorized Organization.

4.2.2 It is the responsibility of each Authorized Organization to have clearances updated:

- a. At appropriate intervals (the usual period is five years);
- b. On change of marital status;
- c. At such other times as the Authorized Organization deems necessary.

The updating will include a check of subversive and criminal indices, supported by fingerprints. It will also include such further investigation as deemed necessary by either the Authorized Organization or the Investigative Agency.

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4.2.3 It is the responsibility of each investigative agency to carry out SA investigations in accordance with the standards set out in this chapter.

4.2.4 It is the responsibility of each Authorized Organization assigned the function of granting SA clearances to assess the information provided by the investigative agency in accordance with the criteria set out in this chapter. A Category I clearance is based on normal government standards for a Top Secret clearance but the criteria set out in this chapter apply when assessing the information supplied by the investigative agency.

### 4.3 Standards of Investigation

4.3.1 A check will be made of:

- a. RCMP security records;
- b. RCMP criminal records, supported by fingerprints;
- c. The records of law enforcement agencies in vicinities where the individual has resided for substantial periods of time;
- d. Birth records, if considered necessary by the investigative agency;
- e. Citizenship or immigration records if subject not born in Canada;
- f. Employment records, to verify the employment which is claimed;
- g. Military records, to verify the time claimed in military service and to obtain the record of behaviour;
- h. Credit records, to establish the credit standing and financial reputation of the individual, when it is possible to do so.

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4.4 Field Investigation.

4.4.1 Interviews will be conducted on a selective basis with persons who are likely to have a knowledge of the individual and members of his immediate family. These investigations will be conducted at schools, places of employment and other places as considered necessary by the investigative agency.

4.4.2 Except as stated in 4.4.3, the field investigation will cover a period of about the last 20 years of the subject's life, except in cases of very young persons where this is obviously impractical. In these cases, the best possible investigation will be made of the subject and family and the clearance will be updated biennially for six years and at five year intervals thereafter. (In the case of the records check, the investigative agency will ensure that all relevant records are checked which could apply to the individual's 20 year period).

4.4.3 The 20 year requirement may be lowered for a person with unique skills or qualifications or during an emergency period. In no case, however, is a period less than ten years acceptable. These cases must be kept to a minimum and the need for the services of the person concerned must be strong enough to justify the risk which is involved. The clearance will be updated biennially for six years and at five year periods thereafter.

4.4.4 Information will be sought about travel to Communist-dominated areas, except in the service of the government.

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4.5 Criteria

4.5.1 Persons described in paragraph 4.5.2 below must not, when known, be granted an SA clearance and, if discovered within the indoctrinated community, must be removed from it. It may also be necessary, where it appears to the Minister concerned to be in the public interest, to dismiss him from the public service, subject to the conditions set out in Cabinet Directive #35.

4.5.2 Criteria Applying to Loyalty

- a. A person who is a member of a communist or fascist party or an organization affiliated with a communist or fascist party and having a similar nature and purpose.
- b. A person who by his words or his actions shows himself to support a communist or fascist party or an organization affiliated with a communist or fascist party and having a similar nature and purpose.
- c. A person who, having reasonable grounds to understand its true nature and purpose, is a member of or supports by his words or his actions an organization which has as its real objective the furtherance of communist or fascist aims and policies (commonly known as a front group).
- d. A person who is a secret agent of or an informer for a foreign power, or who deliberately assists any such agent or informer.

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- e. A person who by his words or his actions shows himself to support any organization which publicly or privately advocates or practices the use of force to alter the form of government.

4.5.3 It must be borne in mind that there may be reason to doubt the loyalty of a person who at some previous time was a person as described in paragraph 4.5.2 even though this doubt may not be confirmed by recent information about him.

4.5.4 Criteria Applying to Character

In addition to loyalty, reliability is essential in any person who is to be given access to classified information. A person may be unreliable for a number of reasons that do not relate to loyalty. To provide as much assurance of reliability as possible, persons described in sub-paragraphs a. to d. below may not be permitted to have access to classified information, unless after careful consideration of the circumstances, including the value of their services, it is judged that the risk involved appears to be justified:

- a. A person who is unreliable, not because he is disloyal, but because of features of his character which may lead to indiscretion or dishonesty, or make him vulnerable to blackmail or coercion. Such features may be greed, debt, illicit sexual behaviour, drunkenness, drug addiction, mental imbalance, or such other aspect of character as might seriously affect his reliability;

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- b. A person who, through family or other close continuing relationship with persons who are persons as described in paragraph 4.5.2 is likely to be induced, either knowingly or unknowingly, to act in a manner prejudicial to the safety and interest of Canada. It is not the kind of relationship, whether by blood, marriage or friendship, which is of primary concern. It is the degree of and circumstances surrounding such relationship, and most particularly the degree of influence that might be exerted, which should dictate a judgement as to reliability, a judgement which must be taken with the utmost care;
- c. A person who, though in no sense disloyal or unreliable, is bound by close ties of blood or affection to persons' living within the borders of such foreign nations as may cause him to be subjected to intolerable pressures;
- d. A person with a criminal record of the type which establishes a pattern of criminal behaviour.

4.6 Citizenship

4.6.1 Every effort will be made to grant SA clearance only to Canadian-born citizens.

4.6.2 Former citizens of Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA, who were born in those countries, may be granted SA clearance provided that they have become naturalized Canadian citizens and if the SA clearance

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procedure can be carried out to the satisfaction of the investigative agency. If the need is sufficient to justify the risk involved, these persons may be granted SA clearance before naturalization provided they have declared their intention, in writing, to become naturalized Canadian citizens. These cases will, however, be held to a minimum.

4.6.3 Former citizens of other countries may be granted SA clearance provided they have become naturalized Canadian citizens and if the SA clearance procedure can be carried out to the satisfaction of the investigative agency. Such clearances may be granted only when no suitable candidates as described in 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 are available. (See also 4.4.3)

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