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ROYAL COMMISSION ON SECURITY



Canada

COMMISSION ROYALE SUR LA SECURITÉ

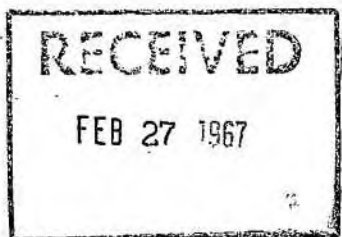
Commissioners:

Commissaires:

M. W. Mackenzie

Y. Pratte

M. J. Coldwell



P. O. Box

466 Ottawa, Ontario

C. P.

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File No. 1-6/External Affairs

February 24, 1967.

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Mr. J.J. McCardle,
Defence Liaison Branch,
Department of External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. McCardle,

I have just received your letter dated February 22 on arrangements for handling personnel security files from your Department.

As you know, the arrangements outlined in my letter of February 20 have been overtaken by events, and the situation is now different in the following respects:

- a) Your Department is unwilling at present to make personnel security files available to us for study in the Commission by the staff, and as back-up for amplification of summaries in discussion of the cases with the Commissioners.
- b) The Commission staff has tried making summaries from the files in the Department, but has found that the full flavour of the careful procedures that went into the handling of individual cases can not be conveyed short of making full copies of a large number of the documents on file.
- c) We also consider it essential to have the files available here, if we are to answer whatever questions the Commissioners may raise, whether or not the individuals are identified by name.

In view of the above considerations, the present arrangement is that a representative of your Department will appear before the Commissioners next Wednesday morning, 1 March, in order to brief them on specified personnel security cases from the files. The cases referred to are the particular one we discussed, where the name has already been made public, and in addition cases with your file numbers EA [redacted] EA [redacted] and EA [redacted].

It should be understood that this method of anonymous briefs from the files on security cases, presented by departmental representatives, is only being tried out on an experimental basis. I am not in a position to say whether the Commissioners will be satisfied with this arrangement, but their views on this point will no doubt emerge during the briefing.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin O'Neill

K. O'Neill, Secretary.

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