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June 17, 1969.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

Report of the Royal Commission on Security -Draft Statement to be Made at Time of Tabling

At a meeting on June 5, 1969, the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence decided that an abridged version of the Report of the Royal Commission on Security should be tabled in the House of Commons before the summer recess. It was also agreed that the Secretary of the Cabinet be authorized to refer the abridged version to the members of the Royal Commission with a view to obtaining their certification that their original Report had been modified only for reasons of national security, and that the modifications did not affect the substance of the Report or its recommendations. Such certification was received from the Royal Commissioners on June 13, their having made a very few minor amendments of no significance in terms of policy, and the abridged version of the Report is at present being printed in both official languages. Subject to the approval of the Committee and the Cabinet, it is my intention to table the Report in the House of Commons on or about June 25.

As directed by the Cabinet Committee on June 5th, the Security Panel has prepared a draft statement to be made at the time of tabling the Report, a copy of which is attached. As reflected by the draft statement, the recommendations of the Security Panel are:

- (a) that the basic recommendation of the Commissioners for the establishment of a separate civilian non-police security service not be accepted, but that the government indicate its intention to meet the requirements posed by the Commissioners through appropriate modifications in the existing structure within the R.C.M.P.;
- (b) that the government accept the recommendation for the establishment of a Security Review Board in terms of the three basic principles set out by the Commissioners, but not necessarily with the terms of reference they propose, and particularly not their proposal that the Board "receive and consider annual or semi-annual reports from the Head of the Security Service, and have authority to draw to the direct attention of the Prime Minister any matters it considers appropriate";
- (c) that the government reject the proposal that the industrial security function be transferred from the Department of Supply and Services to the Department of National Defence;

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- (d) that the government reserve its position on the other recommendations in the Report, at the same time affirming that a substantial number of them will be accepted and implemented;
- and (e) that the government consider, with a view to announcing at an appropriate time, the circumstances under which the Report might best be made the subject of Parliamentary debate, in anticipation of public and Opposition demands for such debate.

I recommend that the Cabinet Committee accept these proposals of the Security Panel, and examine the attached draft statement with a view to ensuring that it adequately reflects the position of the government in relation to the Report of the Royal Commission on Security.

Prime Minister.