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Special Security Committee

The Tenth meeting of the Special Security Committee was held on Thursday, September 23, 1976, at the Country Club, Aylmer Road. Attending were:

Mr. R. G. Robertson
(Secretary to the Cabinet
for Federal-Provincial Relations) (Chairman)
Mr. H. B. Robinson
(Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs)
Mr. Roger Tassé
(Deputy Solicitor General)
Mr. M. R. Dare
(Director General, Security Service,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
Mr. John Hadwen
(Department of External Affairs)
Mr. D. W. Hall
(Privy Council Office) (Secretary)

Mr. Dare reported on the conference of heads of security of Commonwealth countries which had been held in Ottawa the previous week. The theme of the conference was "security implications of hosting a major international event" and Canada's recent experience with the Olympic Games served as a focal point for discussion. The conference was successful and it was agreed that Canada should continue to participate. (The next conference will be in India in 1978.)

Mr. Dare distributed a document entitled "Secret Operations by Communist Powers Against the West" which was prepared by the Security Service with the cooperation of the security and intelligence organizations of [REDACTED]. The paper describes Soviet and Soviet-aligned countries' current intelligence activities from a Canadian viewpoint. Mr. Dare invited members' reaction to the paper generally and, particularly, asked for advice regarding distribution and classification. It was agreed that members would be prepared to discuss the document at the next meeting.

Mr. Dare mentioned that he would be visiting [REDACTED]

/ 2

S E C R E T

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The Chairman expressed particular interest in the effects of the freedom of information legislation and asked that any information Mr. Dare might obtain be passed on to him.

Mr. Tassé commented on the successful security arrangements during the Olympic Games. A meeting of the committee of senior federal and provincial officials responsible for Olympic security is scheduled for November. The committee will receive a report from the security coordinator and will prepare a report on Olympic security for submission to the Cabinet. Mr. Robinson suggested, and Mr. Tassé agreed, that representatives of the Province of Alberta be invited to this meeting since the Province will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in 1978 and could benefit from the experience.

Mr. Tassé reported that, while the Olympics were on, Mr. Lalonde, the Solicitor General of Quebec, wrote to him protesting the assignment of authority for "final decision", in certain emergencies, to the federal government in the criteria which Mr. Tassé is negotiating with the provinces for the coordination of government decisions during public safety emergencies (see notes of 8th meeting). He had not reacted at the time because the games were in progress but will now pursue the matter with Mr. Lalonde. Mr. Tassé mentioned that consideration is being given to amending the Criminal Code to assign to the federal government responsibility for the enforcement of the law for certain types of crimes.

The Chairman questioned whether, if this were done, it would relate to enforcement of the law generally or only in crisis situations. Mr. Tassé replied that there were aspects of certain criminal acts which were clearly the responsibility of the federal government and that there must not be any doubt about who would be taking decisions. He mentioned, by way of example, the decision of the government of France to shoot out the tires of the recently hijacked T.W.A. plane when it landed at a French airfield. Mr. Dare commented that, regardless of where decisions are made, the ability to carry them out must be borne in mind, mentioning specifically the wide variation in police resources in various parts of the country.

The hijacking of a Trans World Airlines plane on the evening of Friday, September 10th, was briefly discussed. (The plane was taken over by a group of Croatians while in flight between New York and Chicago. It landed at Mirabel and Gander, in Canada, and subsequently in Iceland and France where it was disabled.) It was agreed that federal procedures for dealing with hijacking incidents should be reviewed and that problems related to police jurisdiction on airfields should be resolved.

(Secretary's Note: The Chairman of the Security Advisory Committee is arranging for a meeting of an inter-departmental committee to review the procedures and will reactivate a memorandum he prepared several years ago relating to police jurisdiction on airfields.)

Mr. Tassé suggested that certain people who had made outstanding contributions to Olympics security be given an award such as the Order of Canada. (Mentioned as possible recipients were Mr. Toupin and General Reid.) The Chairman said this was a good idea and that recommendations could quite properly be made to Mr. Butler of the Governor General's staff. He suggested that the number of awards be limited to three or four people.

Mr. Robinson cited a specific case in his department in which a security clearance and, hence, employment was refused an individual because of his association with separatist groups. He asked if the public service was moving toward a policy regarding employment of separatists. The Chairman reviewed the present policy pointing out that separatism is of interest and is to be reported when uncovered in the course of security checks but that the decision regarding granting of clearances and employment was left to the individual Deputy Heads because of wide variations in the sensitivity of the work of departments, generally, and of specific positions within them. During discussion, it was agreed that more guidance to Deputy Heads was desirable and Messrs. Hadwen and Hall were asked to review, for the Committee, the existing policies and procedures to determine if more specific guidelines could be provided.

Mr. Robinson expressed support for the review now being carried out by the S.I.&E.P. Secretariat of the P.C.O. of the policy regarding the employment of homosexuals in the public service.

Mr. Robinson reported that:

- as Chairman of the Visits Panel, he had sent a letter to members suggesting that Canadian government departments be less forthcoming in arranging visits for Soviets, particularly to the Canadian north. He felt that we were not getting as much as we were giving in these exchanges and suggested that requests for visits be carefully examined. There was a similar imbalance with respect to Chinese delegations;
- the Department of External Affairs was contemplating changes in the guarding of embassies abroad. The possibility of military policemen being assigned guard duties as part of their normal career patterns was being explored with D.N.D.;
- visits were planned as outlined in the schedules attached to these notes.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Dare the reason for the RCMP not accepting an External Affairs officer to complete a reciprocal arrangement which had seen an RCMP officer assigned to External Affairs. Mr. Dare replied that the problem was with the External Affairs expectation that the RCMP would reimburse the department for the salary of the officer assigned. It was considered that, since the arrangement was initially proposed by External Affairs, they (External) should pay the salaries of both exchange officers. Mr. Robinson said that he would consider this.

- 4 -

In reply to a question from Mr. Robinson, Mr. Dare explained the implications of the change in status of the Security Service in light of the government decision that it is to be "increasingly separate and civilian in nature". He said, in summary, that there would be no change in the Security Service relationships with External Affairs.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday, October 25th, at 12:30 PM in the Gold Room, Rideau Club. //

S E C R E T

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