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The Twelfth meeting of the Special Security Committee was held on Monday, January 24, 1977, at Le Cercle Universitaire. Attending were:

Mr. R. G. Robertson
(Secretary to the Cabinet
for Federal-Provincial Relations)

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)

INT. LIAISON	
SPECIAL REGISTRY	
29-4-SSC	

Mr. Hadwen commented briefly on his recent trip to Britain, noting particularly some of the advantages the integrated British intelligence community enjoyed.

The Chairman reviewed the conclusions reached at a January 4th meeting between Commissioner Nadon and Messrs. Tassé, Dare, Bourne and Hall, which he had chaired. At that meeting, the implications of the Quebec election for the mandate of the Security Service were discussed and certain sections of the mandate which required clarification were identified. Proposals to provide the necessary clarification were being prepared for the Prime Minister's consideration and, if he agreed with the proposals, they would be conveyed to the Solicitor General in a letter from the Prime Minister.

Mr. Robinson asked if the proposed modifications were likely to have international implications, pointing out that these were not always obvious and that activities internal to a country could easily affect relations externally. It was agreed that a copy of the Prime Minister's letter to the Solicitor General would be provided to Mr. Robinson so that he might make this determination.

Mr. Tassé mentioned that, since the January 4th meeting, he had had second thoughts about the proposed clarifications to the Security Service mandate and was uncertain as to whether the Security Service was the proper organization to be assigned the responsibilities inherent in the proposed changes. He expressed concern about the means they would have to use - a point which he felt was not adequately considered at the earlier meeting. With the amount of information available to the various departments and agencies of government, Mr. Tassé considered that there may be ways to find out all that need be known without a Security Service operation which was bound to involve some risk. If there was to be secret surveillance, this could only be done if there was an indication that the plans or activities of the people being watched included violence or the attainment of objectives by illegal means.

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Mr. Dare pointed out that there was a gap between the Security Service's current mandate and the apparent information requirements of the government. If the mandate were clarified as proposed, he would review his inventory to identify information gaps and then take whatever measures he was authorized to take to fill them. He stressed that any Security Service activity must be kept clear of politics.

Mr. Tassé agreed but pointed out that anything done to prevent the breaking up of the country could be confused with the Liberal Party line which was dedicated to this same end.

The Chairman said that the new unit being set up in FPRO would do much of what Mr. Tassé mentioned, namely gathering information from all sources to get a total view of the developing scene, analyzing the information and feeding back to appropriate departments and agencies anything that required attention.

Mr. Dare said he would be willing to designate a person from the Security Service to work, as required, with the new FPRO unit.

Mr. Tassé reported on a telephone conversation he had had with Mr. Normand, the Deputy Minister, Quebec Department of Justice, regarding the RCMP operations in Quebec. Certain of the questions posed by Mr. Normand were discussed.

Mr. Robinson mentioned that he would probably have to release an employee for security reasons and asked how the Public Service Security Inquiry Regulations were invoked. The Secretary was asked to find out how this was done and advise Mr. Robinson. (NOTE: the PCO legal adviser says that the first step is for a Minister to make a submission to the Governor-in-Council. In his view the appropriate Minister would be the Minister of the department or agency concerned, although it could be the Prime Minister or indeed any Minister.)

Mr. Robinson reported that measures were being taken to improve the safety of departmental employees abroad and that support for the measures from such people as Committee members may be necessary to overcome Treasury Board Secretariat cynicism. He also discussed the recent expulsion from Canada of three Cuban diplomats and two Cuban citizens mentioning, in particular, the problems associated with the publicity given such cases.

The need for more precise guidance regarding the employment of homosexuals in the public service was discussed. The SI&EP Secretariat is reviewing this area with a view to proposing guidelines to ICSI. Mr. Robinson mentioned that External Affairs could not employ homosexuals in the foreign service and that job applicants who inquired or who were found to be homosexuals would be told this.

Mr. Dare reported on a recent conversation with a [REDACTED] and it was agreed that continued cooperation in exchanging information was advisable.

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Mr. Dare also mentioned his concern about the attitude taken by Eric Gaskell regarding his retirement and his fear that Gaskell might make damaging public statements.

Mr. Robinson mentioned that there was a lack of French-speaking representatives at the ministerial level for international conferences. It was agreed that Mr. Robinson would write to Mr. Robertson describing the problem.

The next meeting of the Special Security Committee will be at 12:30 P.M. on Monday, March 28th, on the 9th floor of the Lester B. Pearson Building.

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