



CONFIDENTIAL

April 21, 1978.

Mr. Reeves Haggan,  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
(Communications & Consultation),  
Ministry of the Solicitor General,  
O t t a w a.

Dear Mr. Haggan:

For some years security officials have been working on a directive on personnel security clearance to replace the existing Cabinet Directive No. 35 (approved in 1963) dealing with personnel security clearances for access to classified information. A draft was considered by Ministers a year ago, and has since been revised in the light of direction they provided. When the revisions were examined by the Interdepartmental Committee on Security and Intelligence some months ago, the Chairman, Mr. Pitfield, suggested, and the Committee agreed, that it would be helpful if you could review the draft directive and comment, particularly from the point of view of public presentation. Attached you will find a copy of the draft directive along with a draft memorandum intended for use in submitting it to Ministers, and a proposed statement that might be made by an appropriate Minister in the House of Commons when the directive is tabled.

Also under consideration for some time by security advisors has been the possibility of setting out guidelines to assist departments in implementing that part of the directive which requires that human characteristics, including sexual behaviour, be taken into consideration in making decisions on security clearance for access to classified information. The most difficult problems encountered in this area relate to homosexuality, but of course are not confined to that orientation. Officials have drafted the attached memorandum, intended to be supplied to deputy ministers and heads of agencies, and to provide guidelines

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to assist them in this regard. You will appreciate how delicate this task has been, and I would much appreciate your comments on the draft, and also your views on whether an attempt should be made to provide general guidelines at all. You will notice that the proposal in the draft document for the Cabinet is that the guidelines would be referred to by the Minister, and made available, on the occasion of the tabling of the directive on personnel security clearance, to which it obviously is closely related.

I should add that Ms Shirley Popham of this Office has examined earlier drafts of this material and, while I would not indicate that she has any responsibility for the attached, her comments have been extremely helpful. I need hardly emphasize the difficulty of arriving at proposals for a fair and acceptable personnel security policy, and presenting it to the public. I know that Mr. Pitfield and the members of the Interdepartmental Committee on Security and Intelligence will be extremely grateful for your views and advice in this matter.

I am hoping to arrange a meeting of the Interdepartmental Committee in the latter part of May. If I could receive your comments by May 5, I would be able to do the necessary redrafting and provide the revised drafts to members for study before the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
ORIGINAL SIGNED FOR  
T. DARCY FINN

T. D. Finn,  
Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
(Security, Intelligence and  
Emergency Planning).

Attachs. 4

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