

AREA COMMANDERS - SECURITY SERVICE

ALTA., B.C., MAN., N.B., N.S., ONT.,
QUE., SASK., S.W. ONT., AREAS

D.D.G. OPS.

Security Screening -
Character Weaknesses

SECURITY-CLASSIFICATION-DE SECURITE
<u>S E C R E T</u>
OUR FILE / REFERENCE
IP 371-9
YOUR FILE - VIREFERENCE
DATE
78-11-07



The following is in response to several queries from the field regarding our interest in homosexuals and homosexual organizations as related to security screening.

2. The Security Service has no mandate to investigate homosexuals. We are however the investigative agency responsible for supplying Departmental Security Officers with results of investigations in security screening cases in order that they may arrive at a considered judgement of the person's loyalty and reliability. Cabinet Directive 35 indicates that a person is unreliable because of features of his character, such as illicit sexual behaviour, which may lead to indiscretion or render him vulnerable to blackmail or coercion.

3. Illicit sexual behaviour of a candidate is difficult to determine. To assist the investigator we have, over the years, included the names of all homosexuals encountered by the Security Service in our data bank which is checked against all screening candidates. This information not only provides valuable investigative leads, but ensures that the name of a homosexual candidate for security clearance will surface through a records check in those cases where a field investigation is not required.

4. To keep our data bank up to date, we rely on our field personnel to provide suitable identification (at least full name, address and date of birth) of individuals who are suspected or confirmed homosexuals, encountered during investigations. Several Area Commands also obtain lists from morality squads of various police departments in their area which they submit on a semi-annual or annual basis. No further action is required on the part of Area Commands, and no investigations should be undertaken in connection with the collection of this data.

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5. The investigation of homosexuality is not a responsibility per se of the Security Service. As you are aware homosexual acts between consenting adults in privacy are not illegal nor is it the Federal Government's intention to bar homosexuals from employment in the Public Service of Canada. Homosexuality will not necessarily result in a refusal of a security clearance, but it is one of a number of factors which must be taken into account when determining an individual's suitability for security clearance.


J.B. Giroux, A/Commr.
D.D.G. (Ops.)

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