

ROYA

PLEASE ADDRESS
CORRESPONDENCE TO

THE COMMISSIONER
CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2



HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

LE COMMISSAIRE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO.
VOTRE N°

OUR NO. IP 371-1
NOTRE N°

1979 May 08

CONFIDENTIAL

Area Commanders - Security Service
Alta., B.C., Man., N.B., N.S., Ont.,
Que., Sask., S.W. Ont. Areas

Re: Security Screening General

You may recall that on 74-10-18 we forwarded a submission to the Security Advisory Committee proposing a number of changes relative to Top Secret security clearance procedures. Shortly thereafter, SAC began a comprehensive review of all government security policies, and action in connection with our proposal was deferred pending completion of SAC's review. That review is now nearing completion and we expect by this fall we will have a new Cabinet directive on personnel security.

2. One of the features of our proposal was an interview with the subject under investigation, when possible and practical, in an effort to confirm, qualify, clarify and elaborate on adverse information acquired during the course of the investigation. We felt this to be highly desirable from an operational point of view and considered it would become an integral part of the investigative process. Although we have been awaiting Cabinet approval of the new personnel security policies developed by the SAC before implementing the interview procedure, recent events make it desirable that we begin as soon as possible.

3. At the direction of Mr. Michael Pitfield, Secretary to the Cabinet and Chairman of I.C.S.I., action is underway at the present time to establish a procedure

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whereby any public servant employee who is denied security clearance, or whose career is affected by security requirements, will be entitled to an explanation of the reason(s) for denial of clearance, to the extent possible. It has been agreed that the revised Cabinet Directive on Personnel Security should reflect this new procedure, Sec. 7(7) of the Financial Administration Act should be amended and this procedure included in the Public Service Security Enquiry Regulations. In essence, the procedure will require the Departmental Security Officer to interview the employee, after having first determined from us if any of our information may be disclosed, advise the employee to the extent possible of the reason(s) for security concern, and provide the employee the opportunity to explain or refute the information. If the DSO feels clearance should be denied, he will so recommend to the Deputy Minister who will review the case - if necessary in consultation with three other Deputy Ministers, and if he decides clearance should be denied, advise the employee personally of his decision. Should the employee request a formal review, action would proceed in accordance with the Public Service Security Enquiry Regulations, i.e., a Commissioner would be appointed to examine all relevant material, convene an enquiry, call witnesses, etc., and report his findings to Cabinet.

4. Because of this new procedure, our reports will be more closely scrutinized than ever before, and every effort will have to be made to ensure that our reports are accurate, factual and objective; that our comments on the validity, relevance and importance of our information are sound; and our recommendation as to whether or not clearance should be granted is reasonable and consistent with the facts at hand. One of the ways we can ensure these criteria are met is by interviewing the subject under investigation.

5. An interview with the subject will be the final stage in the investigative process and will offer the following advantages:

a) it will provide the individual an opportunity to explain his actions, refute certain information, etc. Even the most staunchest advocates of human rights and civil liberties would have to agree that this is fair and just and in accordance with democratic principles.

b) it will provide the investigator the opportunity to test the individual's honesty; clarify doubtful or erroneous information; confirm adverse information and possibly uncover additional information;

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c) it will enable us to provide a more balanced report to the department concerned, thereby facilitating the DSO's interview and the Deputy Minister's review.

The main advantage of this procedure, as we see it, is in providing the investigator the opportunity to verify or qualify adverse information. For example, if the subject admits to having been involved in subversive activities or acknowledges certain features of character which give rise to security concerns, the sensitivity of the original information will be removed or reduced and the confidentiality of the source(s) who provided the information in the first instance will not be in jeopardy. On the other hand, it is conceivable that the subject, on interview, may be able to satisfactorily explain his actions, thereby reducing or eliminating the security concern. Whatever the outcome, we at Headquarters will be able to provide a more meaningful and objective report to the employing department which will, in turn, facilitate whatever action the department decides to take.

6. Obviously we will have to be very careful in deciding if an interview should take place, and the extent to which information we have acquired can be revealed to the subject. Each case will have to be decided on its own merits, and it is conceivable that in some cases an interview will not be possible, having due regard to the sensitivity of sources and other operational considerations. We will not attempt to set specific policy at this time, but generally the following will apply:

a) Interviews will be conducted only after Headquarters have reviewed all available material and the OIC "A" Operations has provided direction to the Area Command.

b) Interviews shall be conducted by senior experienced investigators.

c) Should the interview concern subversive activities, an investigator from the operational area concerned, i.e., "B", "D" or "H" shall conduct the interview.

d) Should Area Commands feel that an interview would be unwise, impractical or counter-productive, or

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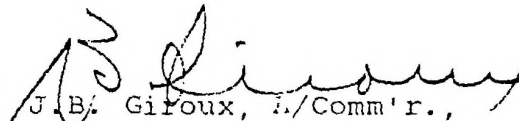
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place sources or operations in jeopardy, Headquarters should be advised as soon as possible, and provided with the reason(s).

e) The safeguarding of sources and the protection of operations will be paramount. Interviews will not take place if there is the slightest risk of jeopardizing sources or operations.

f) Interviews will be for security screening purposes only, and must not be used as a means to further other operational concerns. Nothing must be said or implied to indicate that security clearance is dependent on the subject's willingness to assist in areas unrelated to security clearance.

7. This procedure will be implemented immediately. Should you have any comments, concerns or reservations about this procedure, we would like to hear from you as soon as possible.


J.B. Giroux, A./Comm'r.,
D.D.C. Operations.

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