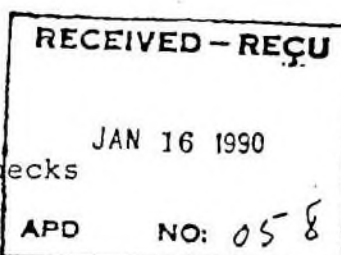


TO/À • APD/R. Higham (through ISD)

FROM/DE •
ISS

REFERENCE •
RÉFÉRENCE

SUBJECT • Cohabitation: Security Checks
SUJET



Security/Sécurité
CONFIDENTIAL-PERS SENS
Accession/Référence
File/Dossier
Date
January 11, 1990
Number/Numéro
ISSV-178

ENCLOSURES
ANNEXES

DISTRIBUTION

The trend towards cohabitation which increased noticeably through the Seventies brought several enquiries from Heads of Mission regarding the implications for security. As a result, in 1979 Section 6.1.3 of the Manual of Procedures was amended (as was the Code of Conduct) to require employees who intended to cohabit to complete and submit Form EXT-332, Notice of Intent to Marry/Cohabit. In 1988 ADA amended the form and circulated a reminder to personnel of the procedures when submitting the form.

2. The rationale for conducting a security check of an intended spouse or cohabiter is the same as that which requires an applicant/employee to provide details of immediate relatives on the Personnel Security Clearance Questionnaire. The details provided permit a check of CSIS (or other countries') records to establish whether or not an individual has come to their attention as being a possible "threat to the security of Canada". Anyone having an association with such a person could very well be induced to act in a way that would also constitute a threat or may be induced to disclose classified government information. As the closest "association" one can form is generally an emotional one with a spouse or cohabiter, this type of relationship offers the greatest potential for influence and accordingly requires the most careful security scrutiny.

3. Some employees of the Department have formed an emotional attachment to a member of the same sex. Some have submitted a Notice of Intent to Cohabit; others have not. It is also interesting to note that some also have requested the same advantages as are currently accorded to heterosexual couples under FSDS for posting abroad.

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As more people are acknowledging their sexual orientation, security officials hope the potential for blackmail in their case may be commensurately reduced. However, the rationale for a security check on the partner is as strong as it is in a normal heterosexual relationship.

4. I believe that the Department should take steps in the near future to circulate a revised policy document which would include reference to cohabitation with members of the same sex. This formulation would also be incorporated in the new Manual of Personnel Policies and the Manual of Security Instructions. In order to ascertain whether the policy might present some difficulties for other areas of Departmental operations, we would like to arrange a meeting with you and any members of your Bureau or others who may have a contribution to make in this connection.

5. -I should be grateful if you could let me know when we might arrange such a meeting and for your advice on who should be invited to participate at this initial stage.

A.G. Vincent
Director
Security Division

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