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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE
ADDRESSED:-
THE COMMISSIONER,
M. POLICE,
OTTAWA



FILE NO. G 369-66

OTTAWA, 8
CANADA

November 6, 1962.

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Security Screening of Personnel,
Applicants and Employees Generally
(Federal Government)

Under present conditions of retrenchment in Government expenditures this Directorate in common with other Government departments and agencies is faced with the problem of maintaining an essential standard of service despite the continuing man power shortage.

2. In seeking a means of relieving this problem, we have re-examined our methods of operation and have concluded that a step toward accomplishing this end would be elimination of the present summaries supplied by this Directorate to Government departments. As an illustration of the time expended in preparing these summaries, which set out the results of the various phases of favourable security screening investigations, the following figures may be of interest. During the fiscal year of 1961 some 2,240 summaries were prepared. It is estimated that this involved an expenditure of about 1,680 hours or 240 days of preparation. As against this for example, the preparation of communications based on a subversive records check together with a statement confirming that the investigations were productive of no adverse information would require only about 185 hours (26 days). This reflects a substantial saving of time and labor by our supervisors, reading staff, stenographers and typists.

3. We should like to cite certain present practices which, by reason of their presence, suggest to us that these summaries are not serving a genuinely useful purpose. We presently have a number of customer departments responsible for granting security clearances based solely on information from this Directorate based on the results of a record check

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Mr. D.F. Wall,
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Room 117, East Block,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Discuss with RBB.

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and including a statement confirming that a favourable field enquiry has been carried out. It is realized that at the present time we are supplying summaries only to the more sensitive Government Departments. Nevertheless, we feel that where simple statements confirming that the field enquiries have proven satisfactory are accepted by some Government Departments there is no reason to believe that its adoption would not meet the requirements of all departments.

4. In addition it is a matter of policy with [redacted] that when no adverse information is developed through positive vettings, they supply only a short statement advising that the applicant was subjected to field enquiries and no adverse information came to light. This statement has, in every case, been accepted without complaint by the Canadian Government Department concerned with the status of the person being screened.

5. In further support of our contention we might suggest that an examination of a representative group of favourable summaries supplied to the Departments would indicate a pattern of reporting that, by the nature of the type of investigation and the information obtained, produces reports or summaries that vary little in content and thus contribute no more than would a statement confirming the favorable investigation.

6. There is dire need of giving serious consideration to our suggestion immediately because of circumstances which might seriously hamper our screening programme to the extent that, irrespective of the priority which we accord some Departments, delays of unmanageable proportions will ensue. This is particularly so at this time, as it has been shown that requests for field enquiries, and the resultant preparation of summaries, have increased during the first six months of the current fiscal year by a total of 1131 or 15.7%. Indeed the increase in field investigation requests on the part of the Civil Service Commission have increased for the first six months of the present fiscal year by 110% over an identical period for the previous year. The increase has reached 354% for the immediate past quarter (July August and September, 1962) over the corresponding period last year. Added to these figures is the increase of 57.1% in adverse briefs prepared for the departments for the period of the first six months of 1962-3 over the same period in 1961-3. These increases have occurred in the midst of the Government austerity program. It seems obvious that we can expect no relief from such increases in the future even should the austerity programme continue.

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7. We can assure the Departments that should they be agreeable to accepting the statement as proposed, we would continue to exercise the utmost care to ensure that all details surrounding any adverse traces developed on any person connected with the enquiry would be fully set out in our submission to the Department. We strongly urge that because of the present serious shortage of staff in this Directorate, and in the interests of economy and efficiency, that this representation, as a partial solution to our problem, be accepted and that you will, accordingly, advise all Departments of the proposed change.



(J.R.W. Bordeleau)
Assistant Commissioner
Director
Security and Intelligence.

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