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File S-1-6
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CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, January 16th, 1963.

Mr. J. R. Baxter,
Director of Administration & Personnel,
Department of Transport,
O t t a w a.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I refer to your letters of October 17, 1962 and January 14, 1963, concerning a draft circular pertaining to adverse security reports which your department receives from the R.C.M. Police.

I had hoped by this time to have succeeded in persuading the R.C.M. Police to adopt a less restrictive attitude concerning the distribution of their reports by departmental security officers, and we are continuing our efforts in that direction. We are still convinced that a workable method of distribution can be devised, and that it should not be necessary for you to use the system set out in your draft circular.

Meanwhile, concerning the substance of your draft circular, one or two points occurred to us which you may wish to consider. First, while I doubt that the R.C.M. Police could object to the system you suggest if it were used only within departmental headquarters here in Ottawa, there would probably be the usual objections to your informing regional and district officers of the nature of adverse reports, even to the limited extent you suggest. As you are aware, many of the adverse briefs contain only one item of information, and undoubtedly the R.C.M. Police would argue that its source

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might be placed in jeopardy even through revealing its general nature in the way you suggest. While we do not agree that this would necessarily be the case, we would anticipate some embarrassment for you and your department if it did in fact happen.

Second, I am not sure that the "code-word" system you suggest would materially assist a Regional Director or Marine Agent in deciding what action to recommend to you, as he would still be in doubt as to the detail of the adverse information. Surely it would be more satisfactory, for the time being, to request R.C.M. Police agreement to send the whole of the adverse report, in cases where the judgement of the regional or district officer is essential to a proper disposition of the case.

I am still convinced that the best solution to this problem is the re-establishment of the principle that departments must be free to use R.C.M. Police information as they see fit, under agreed and appropriate safeguards. Our recent conversations and correspondence with the R.C.M. Police on this matter indicate that there is a good possibility of achieving such agreement within the next few months. I would hope, therefore, that you would not find it necessary to distribute the draft circular you sent me, in order that the foreseeable success of our present negotiations with the R.C.M. Police might not be jeopardized.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL DESPATCHED
AND SIGNED BY.

D. F. Wall,
Secretary of the Security Panel.

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