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Seen by  
Vu par  
P. M. Pitfield

PRIVE 9.01978  
June 9, 1978

*I take it to be you will attend my meeting w. the source?*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PITFIELD

SPUR (Security Policy Under Review)

*JUN 13 10 00 AM '78  
breakdown  
of the subheads of "Security"  
COUNSEL PRIVE  
PMP  
14.6.78*

The SPUR project grew out of a proposal made by the RCMP Protective Policing ("P") Directorate to the Security Advisory Committee, 23 March, 1976. There were two main motivations. One was the need, strongly perceived by "P" Directorate, for a comprehensive document on security policy which could be conveniently used by departments. "P" Directorate emphasized the inadequacy of the mass of confusing guidance presently provided. The other was the urgent need to arrive at a policy and procedures for protecting valuable assets not falling within the area of "national security" material covered by the classification system. "P" Directorate has a responsibility for advising departments on this matter, particularly in relation to sensitive non-national security information stored in computers.

The Security Advisory Committee agreed to give "P" Directorate responsibility for devising comprehensive recommendations in this area. A number of working groups was established - a "policy" group at the centre, chaired by Supt. Fedor, and several other groups to work on "procedures" for various aspects of security (physical, personnel, administrative, EDP). The obvious soon became apparent - that the "procedures" groups could not get far in the absence of an agreed policy. The central "policy" group concentrated on arriving at a system for protecting information and other assets and there was interminable discussion (e.g. about the feasibility of a "Protected" category).

From the beginning, the work of the SPUR policy group was confused by other related work being carried on by the SAC. SAC was simultaneously developing a personnel security clearance directive to replace CD-35 - a task which, it would seem, should have fallen within the SPUR ambit. (As you know, proposals on personnel security clearance went to Ministers a year ago, and revisions

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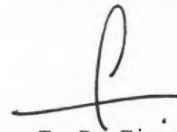
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were considered by the ICSI last December.) Further, mainly in relation to the development and publication of the Green Paper on public access to government documents, Robin Bourne's staff produced, for SAC consideration, draft proposals on a revised classification system - a subject which was also occupying SPUR.

The intention was, I think, that SPUR would develop a comprehensive framework into which the parts (mainly the two difficult areas of classification and personnel security clearance where the need for policy direction is urgent) could be fitted at a later stage, after examination and approval of Ministers. However, the work on classification and personnel security clearance policy have become so bogged down that it would now seem desirable to consider moving forward to Cabinet with a comprehensive document. The SPUR policy group has developed a promising discussion paper to this end, which I believe Supt. Fedor will soon be presenting to Robin Bourne for SAC consideration.

It seems to me that in general there has been a good deal of confusion of purpose and waste of effort. I suggest that, when you meet with Bourne and Fedor, you should ask them for clarification, and explore with them the feasibility of developing comprehensive proposals on security policy, as opposed to the piecemeal approach which would involve at least two submissions to Cabinet. At this time you may also wish to consider the preparation of a comprehensive security policy in unclassified form, written for public release. As you are aware, Reeves Haggan is writing a personnel security clearance paper along these lines which should be a part of the whole picture.

Coincidentally, in the resolution of the classification matter, care must be taken to ensure compatibility with the Canadian Human Rights Act. This will require that all information within the exempted categories of the Act be clearly designated to ensure adequate protection. At the same time, the Act provides for access upon request to certain personal information by the individuals concerned. Provision must also be made to ensure that this personal information is secured from unauthorized access by third parties.



T. D. Finn

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