

CONFIDENTIAL

Security Panel Document
SP - 170

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECURITY PANEL

Security Screening of Government Employees

At its 54th meeting the Security Panel considered a draft Cabinet Directive on security policy and procedures in the public service designed to replace Cabinet Directive No. 24 of October 16th, 1952. The Security Panel made a number of emendations, and in particular asked that the Security Sub-Panel re-examine that part of the draft directive related to the taking of references, and consult further with organizations which use the reference system.

(Security Panel Document SP - 163B and
the Minutes of the 54th meeting refer).

Foreign Consult

2. Attached at Annex I is a letter from the R.C.M. Police liaison officer in the United Kingdom describing the use made of references in the British security screening system, and covering a set of British documents showing [REDACTED] It has also been ascertained that the U.S. State Department takes references, but no details of the system are at present available. At Annex II is an extract from a letter from the Chairman of the Canadian Civil Service Commission giving his views on past and present experience in the taking of references.

3. Attached at Annex III is a new version of the draft Cabinet Directive incorporating the emendations made by the Security Panel. The most important of these is in paragraph 8 which has been rewritten at the direction of the Panel to make consultation with the Panel in cases of dismissal on security grounds permissive and not mandatory.

4. The Security Sub-Panel has re-examined the whole question of references and wishes to reaffirm its original recommendation that this procedure should be made a part of the security screening of Canadian government employees. It does so because it considers that in some cases present procedures are not entirely adequate, and because other facilities are not available. The Sub-Panel however, noted the Security Panel's concern at the amount of clerical work which would be involved and therefore recommends that the U.K. system using a form letter and report should be adapted to Canadian requirements. This proposal has been incorporated in the new draft directive at Annex III in sub-paragraphs 13(i)(b) and 13(ii)(b).

5. Also attached as a part of Annex III is a draft letter to referees and a draft report form drawn up by the Secretary.

P.M. Dwyer,
Secretary of the Security Panel.

O t t a w a,
April 1st, 1955.

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