

355-9-1-15
18-7-61

TOP SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Mr. Wall, Privy Council Office, called the Deputy (Operations) to discuss the secret letter dated January 12th, 1961. Mr. Wall advised that although there was no disagreement with the suggested changes, to incorporate them in the memorandum being prepared for the Prime Minister, would necessitate the calling of another meeting of the Special Committee in this connection. He therefore wondered whether or not certain proposed changes in the letter should be agreed to.

2. As a result of discussion it was agreed to that the inclusion of the phrase "the Commissioner has explained that," should be put at the beginning of the second sentence of paragraph 4. In this way, it would not form any part of the agreement but be looked upon as an explanation advanced by the Commissioner of the R.C.M.P. He also felt that in the explanation the word "reasonable" before the word "assumption" should be omitted and this was agreed to. It was also agreed that the word "justifiable" before the word "criticism" in paragraph 8 should be omitted.

3. The main difficulty, however, arose when item (c) of the Second Priority was discussed. Mr. Wall wished item (c) to read as follows:

"that consideration be given to setting up a program of research with appropriate psychiatric assistance, with a view to devising tests to identify persons with homosexual tendencies. Such tests might aid in the identification of homosexuals already employed in the government service and eventually might assist in the selection of persons who are not homosexuals for service in vulnerable positions." (underlining mine)

It will be seen that the difference between the Commissioner's submission and this is that the Commissioner wished to use such tests to be used in the initial selection of applicants for Civil Service positions. Mr. Wall explained that there was no regulation in the Civil Service Regulations which prohibited people with character weakness from being employed. During the conversation, he stated that homosexuality, in fact, had not been considered a character weakness by two psychiatrists but it was a matter over which the individual had no control. (Observation - the difference between this and a character weakness appears to be non-existent).

4. After much discussion it was agreed that if the wording of Mr. Wall's suggestion was accepted, this could be agreed to as up to that point this procedure was necessary. However, it was felt that the following note should be placed immediately beneath the item referred to:

Note: The Commissioner of the R.C.M.P. feels that these tests should be extended to prevent where possible the initial engagement in the Government Service on the grounds that homosexuals are usually practising criminals under Sections 147 and 149 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

OTTAWA,
18/1/61.

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