

G 355-9-1-15 (2)

TO:

The Commissioner

Policy

Sir,

Security Risks - Homosexual

I have had a copy made of the attached document which you forwarded to me with your memorandum, from which I note that a meeting will be called for the week of July 25th. I will keep in touch with Mr. Wall and thereby comply with your instructions as to advising when the date is fixed for the meeting referred to.

2. It seems clear that the main avenues being pursued in this paper are perhaps two-fold, one being to carry out some research in order to learn more about this weakness and thus be in a position to detect it more readily than at present, while the other is to guard against the ever-present possibility of an individual obtaining employment in a sensitive department. Despite all the tests that have been developed to date homosexual weaknesses are not disclosed, but these weaknesses can be a security risk, particularly if an employee is employed in an overseas position where he could be subject to exploitation. There seems to be a desire to make all employees aware of this possibility so as to embrace any who have this weakness which had not been detected prior to the individual's posting.

3. I note with some interest that part of Page 4 which refers to the training programme prior to posting to risky areas which would give the employee an awareness, and a degree of sympathy by the employing department when trouble is anticipated so that the employee would feel entirely free to ask for help without prejudice.

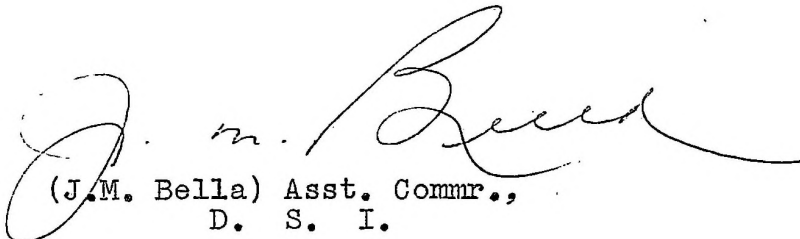
4. This paper should be, and I am sure will be, discussed at length before any thought is given to accepting the suggestions as any part of policy in handling this delicate and difficult problem.

5. It may be of some interest to you to say that Mr. Starnes called me yesterday in connection with a high-level employee of his department, of whom you are aware, who has been under consideration for an overseas posting, but, because of the fact that it has been established within reasonable doubts that he is homosexually inclined, the possibility of such posting is now quite remote. Mr. Starnes informed me that a certain school of thought in the Department of External Affairs at the present time seems to be

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that the Canadian attitude at present towards this problem is far too rigid, and suggested that the British did not view the matter with the same alarm as we do. Mr. Starnes' recollections of discussions on this problem with the British while in London a year ago [REDACTED], and he was wondering if there had been any change in their attitude or policy. He quickly made it clear that, although he could probably obtain the information himself through his own overseas representatives, he hesitated to do so for obvious reasons, and requested that we check through our Liaison Officer to see if there had been any change in policy. I assured Mr. Starnes that to my knowledge, which is quite recent on this subject, there had not been a change in the British policy. However, I have taken the necessary steps to obtain this information which will be passed discreetly to Mr. Starnes.


(J.M. Bella) Asst. Commr.,
D. S. I.

20/7/60.

D.S.I.
Let me have this back
prior to meeting


21. 7.60