

TC/MA

G 355-9-1

Your Ref.: [REDACTED]

June 27, 1962.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: The O.C. "A" Division,
RCMP - OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: Security - Screening of Personnel
Applicants and Employees Generally
(Federal Govt.)

Reference is made to your letter dated May 9th, 1962 regarding the above.

2. Cpl. MacKENZIE's suggestion concerning the use of photographs as an aid in security investigations has been noted with interest and given careful consideration. We agree that the proposal has much to commend it, and that if accepted would virtually eliminate the possibility of error in identification on the part of the investigator.

3. Nevertheless the institution of a system at this time employing the use of photographs in security investigations imposes administrative problems of such magnitude that the anticipated advantages would be outweighed by the obstacles encountered. One difficulty to be expected is the inability of the Departments in correctly judging the number of photographs necessary for each investigation, particularly where the screening subject has resided in a number of Divisional areas. This, accordingly, would result in Headquarters Identification Branch facing the task of supplying the required copies. Here we could anticipate delays, a situation we seek to avoid because of the need for promptness in screening. Moreover, because of the mechanics involved in securing photographs suitable for identification purposes from varied sources, we could expect a good deal of opposition from Government Departments in initiating a program of this kind.

4. We do not feel that the problem of mistaken identity in screening investigational cases is one with which we are confronted to any great degree. It is our considered opinion that the alert, interested and capable investigator will, in any but the most unusual case, be able to effect the proper identification.

5. With particular reference to paragraph three of Cpl. MacKENZIE's memorandum it would seem that immediately an investigator develops an indication of

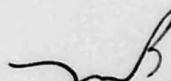
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homosexual tendencies on the part of an applicant or employee of a Department in which photographs are available, we should in these circumstances secure a photograph to further the investigation. As pointed out in the memorandum, the Departments where photographs are available cover a fairly broad field and include those that are more sensitive.

6. Also to be considered at this time, when we are faced with criticism of our screening methods from different sources and for various reasons, is the fact that it would be ill-timed to attempt the introduction of a system involving photographs. In view of this, and after careful consideration, we must conclude that the present time is not opportune for proceeding with the suggestion. Nevertheless, we appreciate Cpl. MacKENZIE's interest in bringing this suggestion to our attention. It is quite possible that at some future time conditions will be such that the suggestion may receive more favourable consideration.


(J.E.M. Barrette) Insp.,
for D.S.I.

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