

LWJ/SD

C 369-66 (Vol. 4)

May 29, 1950.

BY HAND

Dear Mr. Caskell,

Re: Security Screening of Government Employees

Following on discussions at the 27th meeting of the Security Panel, attached hereto is a paper dealing with the reporting of adverse information to Departments of Government.

2. This paper constitutes firm proposals by this Force and we should be glad to have it placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Security Panel.

Yours very truly,

(L.H. Nicholson),
Assistant Commissioner,
Director of Criminal Investigation.

Mr. E. F. Caskell,
Secretary,
Security Panel,
Office of the Secretariat,
East Block,
Ottawa.

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SECRET

DRAFT

At the twenty-seventh meeting of the Security Panel, Assistant Commissioner Nicholson, for the R.C.M. Police, advanced the suggestion that the time might be ripe for reconsideration of the method employed in transmitting reports resulting from security investigations on public servants. It was agreed that this matter would be reviewed in detail at the next meeting and that the R.C.M. Police would advance certain concrete proposals in this respect. Certain proposals are embodied below, but a glance at the present method, with its advantages and disadvantages, may not be out of place.

PRESENT PROCEDURE

The three Armed Services, together with a few Departments of Government, receive reports as they are compiled by the investigators in the field. These reports are prepared on a regular police form (C-237) and are forwarded without comment. The assessment of the contents is made by the receivers. All other Departments and Agencies of Government receive a notification to the effect that the investigation or records check has been completed and that:

- (a) Nothing of an adverse nature has been disclosed, or,
- (b) Information which may have a bearing on security is available on request, or,
- (c) Information which, while not bearing strictly on security, may affect the suitability of the person for employment in the public service, is available on request.

When this notification has been received by the Deputy head, he communicates with the Special Branch of the R.C.M. Police. An officer of this Branch calls on the Deputy head and makes a verbal report.

This method of reporting has its advantages and disadvantages.

The advantages include:

- (a) Almost complete protection of Police sources in Canada and abroad.
- (b) The impossibility of a document falling into the wrong hands.

G - 369 - 66 (Vol. 4)

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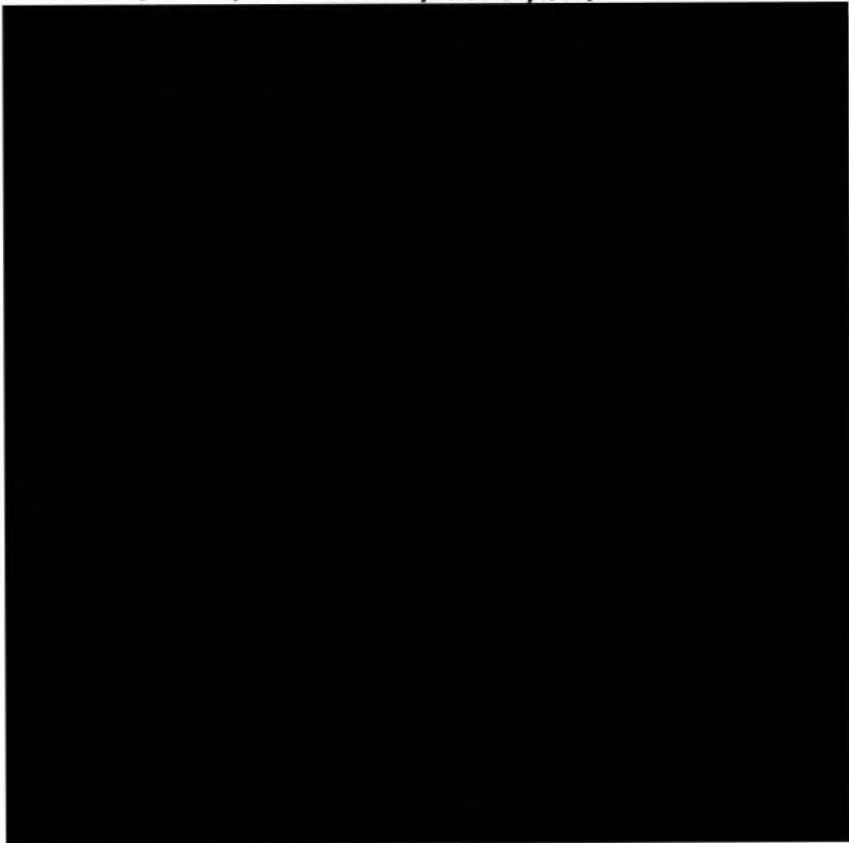
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- (c) The benefit to the Deputy head of a personal interview with an officer fully conversant with the subversive situation generally.

The disadvantages include:

- (a) The practical difficulty encountered by one officer in making the requisite calls to keep abreast of the volume of adverse reports.
- (b) The lack of satisfactory record in the Department concerned even when the Deputy head takes notes during the interview.
- (c) The complication which arises when a Civil Servant is being reported upon and the Civil Service Commission must be consulted.

The procedure of reporting verbally to all but a limited number of Departments was adopted in 1948 as a result of repeated breaches of security in respect to written police reports.



C 369 - 66 (A.P. 4)

WRITTEN REPORTS

There are advantages and disadvantages inherent in written reports. The advantages include:-

- (a) A more efficient and time-saving method of transmission.
- (b) A permanent record in the Department concerned and the Civil Service Commission.
- (c) The elimination of much duplication in verbal reporting.

Among the disadvantages are:

- (a) The danger of a classified document being lost, stolen or copied.
- (b) The possible compromise of sources.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that some form of written report now be adopted for general use. Changing conditions and a better appreciation of security requirements throughout the Government services indicate that this step is due.

METHOD

There are two alternative methods which might be employed:-

- (a) Continue sending C-237 to Departments and Services which are now receiving these and to provide all other Departments of Government and Agencies with a written brief, or,
- (b) To provide all Services, Departments and Agencies with a written brief.

The adoption of (a) above will cause less of an administrative problem at R.C.M.P. Headquarters Special Branch.

If either of the above alternatives is adopted, it is clear that some form of brief must be prepared at R.C.M. Police Headquarters for distribution. These briefs, in order to obviate any confusion, might follow the colour pattern set by the present "A", "B" and "C" letters. In other words, the report on which there was no adverse information from a security angle would be typed on white paper, adverse security information on pink paper, and information implying character or moral weakness would be typed on yellow paper.

G-369-66 (encl. 4)

Each of these documents would bear an appropriate warning on the top [REDACTED] No sources would be disclosed but the paper would contain all information required to facilitate an intelligent assessment on the part of the responsible official. In many ways these briefs would be more valuable from that standpoint than would be the possession of an actual form C-237. For instance, an investigator in the field may embody in his report the bare statement of participation in, say, A.U.U.C. activities. The chances are that the Deputy head has never heard of this organization and may not attach any particular significance to membership therein. A properly written brief would contain some such statement as "The subject is known to be a member of the Communist-dominated (or Communist-front, or Communist-infiltrated) organization known as the 'XYZ', the activities of which are known to be subversive.

Some samples of the form which these briefs may take are attached hereto.

ACTION BY SECURITY PANEL

The Panel is requested to consider this proposal.

If the proposal is acceptable the R.C.M. Police is prepared to meet the additional administrative burden but recognizes that the distribution of written reports to all Departments and Agencies involves some security risk. The Panel is therefore requested to consider what steps might be taken to minimize that risk.

above.

The responsibility of the Panel

to be

G 369-66 (vol. 4)



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