



Solicitor General
of Canada

Solliciteur général
du Canada

The Honourable
Bob Kaplan

L'honorable
Bob Kaplan

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FEB 22 1982
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Mr. Svend J. Robinson, M.P.
Room 386-CB
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Svend:

This is further to my acknowledgement of your letter dated December 10, 1981, in which you requested information as to the procedure for obtaining a security clearance.

It has not been Government policy to require Members of Parliament to undergo security clearance procedures. Most Members do not require access to classified information during the course of their Parliamentary duties, and those who have occasional access through membership in Parliamentary Committee for example, do not require security clearance.

Some Members who serve as Parliamentary Secretaries to Cabinet Ministers have been the subject of cursory screening procedures, but these have been exceptional cases usually initiated at the request of the Cabinet Minister concerned to enable the Parliamentary Secretary to have access to classified information. When such a need exists, clearance procedures become the responsibility of the security officer of the department concerned.

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Cabinet Ministers, who can have regular and continuing access to highly classified information by virtue of their oath as a Privy Councillor, are considered to have been cleared to the highest security level.

As you know, the McDonald Commission addressed the question of security clearance for Members of Parliament and Senators, and I would refer you to pages 790 to 792 of Volume 2 of the Second Report and Recommendation 116 (a) "that there be security and criminal records checks for M.P.s and Senators who will have access to classified information." That recommendation is currently under consideration and I cannot comment with any certainty as to the decision that will be reached.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by

Original signé par

BOB KAPLAN

Bob Kaplan, P.C., M.P.