FOR THE PRESS
OCTOBER 7, 1947
No. 798

The Department of State made public today the text of Security Principles of the Department of State, and Naming Procedure of the Personnel Security Board:

I. SECURITY PRINCIPLES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. The Department of State, because of its responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs, is a vital target for persons engaged in espionage or subversion of the United States Government. Due to this fact and because of the great number of highly classified communications which pass through the Department, the security of which is essential to the maintenance of peaceful and friendly international relations, it is highly important to the interests of the United States that no person should be employed in the Department who constitutes a security risk.

B. The Secretary of State has been granted by Congress the right, in his absolute discretion, to terminate the employment of any officer or employee of the Department of State or of the Foreign Service of the United States whenever he shall deem such termination necessary or advisable in the interests of the United States. Accordingly, in the interest of the United States, the Department of State will immediately terminate the employment of any officer or employee of the Department of State or of the Foreign Service who is deemed to constitute a security risk.

C. As used herein an officer or employee constitutes a security risk when he falls into one or more of the following categories: When he is --

1. A person who engages in, supports or advocates treason, subversion, or sedition, or who is a member of, affiliated with, or in any way associated with the Communist, Nazi, or Fascist Parties, or of any foreign or domestic party, organization, movement, group, or combination of persons which seeks to bring or to carry out the form of government of the United States by unconstitutional means or whose policy is to advocate or approve the commission of acts of force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States; or a person who consistently believes in or supports the ideologies and policies of such a party, organization, movement, group or combination of persons.

2. A person who is engaged in espionage or who is acting directly or indirectly under the instructions of a foreign power, or who deliberately performs his duties, or otherwise acts to serve the interests of another government in preference to the interest of the United States.

3. A person who has knowingly divulged classified information without authority and with the knowledge or belief that it will be transmitted to agents of a foreign government; or who is so criminally irresponsible in the handling of classified information as to compel the conclusion of extreme lack of care or judgment.

4. A person...
A person who has habitual or close association with persons believed to be in categories 1 or 2 above in an extent which would justify the conclusion that he might through such association voluntarily or involuntarily divulge classified information without authority.

A person who has such basic weakness of character or lack of judgment as reasonably to justify the fear that he might be led into any course of action specified above.

In the determination of the question whether a person is a security risk the following factors among others will be taken into account, together with such mitigating circumstances as may exist:

1. Participation in one or more of the parties or organizations referred to above, or in organizations which are "fronts" for, or are controlled by, such party or organization, either by membership thereof, taking part in its executive direction or control, contribution of funds thereto, attendance at meetings, employment thereby, registration to vote as a member of such a party, or signature of petition to elect a member of such a party to public office or to accomplish any other purpose supported by such a party; or written evidences or oral expressions by speeches or otherwise, of political, economic or social views;

2. Service in the governments or armed forces of enemy countries, or other voluntary activities in support of foreign governments;

3. Violations of security regulations;

4. Voluntary association with persons in categories 2 (1) or 2 (2);

5. Habitual drunkenness, sexual perversion, moral turpitude, financial irresponsibility or criminal record.

In weighing the evidence on any charges that a person constitutes a security risk the following considerations will decide:

1. A former course of conduct or holding of beliefs will be presumed to continue in the absence of positive evidence indicating a change, both in course of action and conviction, by clear, overt and unequivocal acts.

2. There will be no presumption of truth in favor or statements of the witness in any hearing on security risk, but their statements will be weighed with all the other evidence before the Hearing Board, and the conclusion will be drawn by the Board.

3. If a reasonable doubt exists as to whether the person falls into one of the categories listed in Categories 1, 2 or 2 (2), the Department will be given the benefit of the doubt, and the person will be deemed a security risk.

II. HEARING
II. HEARING PROCEDURE OF THE PERSONNEL SECURITY BOARD.

A. Before any officer or employee of the Department of State or of the Foreign Service of the United States is summarily removed, under the provisions of the Department of State Appropriation Act, 1948, as a security risk, he shall be granted a hearing before the Personnel Security Board.

B. The officer or employee shall be served with a written notice of such hearing, at least 10 days before such hearing is to take place, and in any event in sufficient time to enable him to prepare for and attend such hearing.

C. So far as possible, without jeopardizing national security, such notice shall state the charges made against him, as fully and completely as, in the discretion of the Office of Ceremonies (OS) security considerations permit. The officer or employee shall be informed in the notice of his privilege to reply to such charges in writing before the date set for said hearing, to appear before said Board personally at said hearing, to be accompanied, if he so desires, by counsel or representative of his own choosing, and to present evidence in his own behalf, through witnesses or by affidavit.

D. Evidence on behalf of the Department of State shall be presented to said Board by OS in advance of said hearing; and shall not be presented at said hearing. For security reasons the officer or employee, his representative or counsel, cannot be permitted to hear or examine such evidence, which shall be classified as confidential or secret, as the case may be.

E. At said hearing the Chairman of the Board shall preside; the officer or employee shall be permitted to appear personally, and either by himself, his representative or counsel of his own choosing, to present evidence in his own behalf, through witnesses or by affidavit. The officer or employee and his witnesses shall not be sworn except on their express request. Members of the Board may ask such questions of him and his witnesses as they may desire, but he and his witnesses shall not be required to answer. A stenographic record will be made of the testimony.

F. After the record of the hearing has been reduced to writing, the Board will convene in executive session to reach a decision. In its consideration the Board shall be governed by the Security Principles of the Department of State. After examination of the evidence and following any desired discussion the vote shall be by ballot, and the decision will be by majority vote. The vote of each member will be recorded, with any statement which he may desire to make as to his reasons therefor.

G. The finding of the Board will be either that (1) the Board finds insufficient evidence on which to adjudge the officer or employee a security risk; or that (2) the Board finds the officer or employee to constitute a security risk. In the event of a finding of insufficient evidence the Board may in its discretion recommend further or continued investigation of specific points on which they consider the record inadequate, or may recommend that the case be closed. The findings of the Board shall be accompanied by a brief analysis of the evidence, and an indication of the reasons of the Board for its decision. The record will be classified as secret and transmitted to the Secretary of State, with a copy to the "Vice of Controls."