

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
27 February 1955

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DOCUMENT
AC/35-D/213

NATO SECURITY COMMITTEE

NATO SECURITY CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

Memorandum by the Security Bureau

In accordance with AC/35-D/77, dated 14th October, 1957, there are three types of clearance certificate used for clearance of persons who are to be employed on the International Secretariat. They are as follows:

Security clearance certificate -

This certificate is furnished to the Security Bureau, on the satisfactory completion of the security screening, by the parent country of the individual to be employed.

Supplementary security clearance certificate -

Two copies of this certificate are furnished to the Security Bureau by a NATO country when:

- (a) the candidate has near relations who are nationals of that country although he himself is a national of another NATO country;
- (b) the candidate although belonging to another NATO country, has spent substantial periods of his life in that country.

One copy of this certificate is sent by the Security Bureau to the candidate's own country.

Composite security clearance certificate -

This certificate is furnished when the parent country feels unable to provide the Security Bureau with the security clearance certificate described above, because it is unable to make a complete enough investigation to warrant doing so. This would involve candidates who have spent substantial periods of their adult lives in NATO countries other than their own or those with near relatives who are nationals of another NATO country.

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Based upon experience, it is believed this procedure could be simplified and other use improved upon.

It is therefore proposed that:

- (a) All copies of the Personal Particulars Form be furnished to the parent country of the individual.
- (b) The parent country will be responsible for having the appropriate inquiry made (including requesting such inquiries as may be necessary in another NATO country).
- (c) The parent country will make the decision as to the clearance of the individual in the light of all the information obtained.
- (d) The parent country only will certify as to the security clearance of the individual by means of a certificate similar to the security clearance certificate presently used.
- (e) This procedure will be used in any instance where a clearance certificate is required by the NATO Secretariat and will not be confined to NATO employees.

The proposed procedure contrasted to that presently used, in addition to being less complicated, would be more in accord with the principle laid down in the NATO Security Regulations(1) that a nation is responsible for clearance of all its nationals before they are authorized access to classified information, either in a national or NATO agency. It would also be in accord with proposed procedures in infrastructure security(2) placing the responsibility on the parent country to issue security clearance on an individual and, should the need arise, to obtain further information from other countries.

The matter will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for consideration by the Committee.

(Signed) D.L. STEWART

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Paris XVIIe.

(1) G-M(55)15 (Final), Section III, paragraphs 1 and 2.
(2) AC/35-WP/8 (3rd revision) paras 39 and 40, page 17.