



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE

REPORT

BY

CHIEF OMBUDSMAN

*Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 13 (5) of the  
Ombudsmen Act 1975*

BY AUTHORITY:  
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16 July 1976.

## SECTION B, SUBSECTION 5

*Operations*

This subject cannot be discussed in a public document. I record my recommendation:

## RECOMMENDATION

That statutory provision be made to enable the Service, under suitable control, to conduct the surveillance operations it considers necessary.

## SECTION B, SUBSECTION 6

*Security screening of persons entering New Zealand*

1. Security screening of persons entering New Zealand is the inquiries which are undertaken by the Service with a view to determining whether persons wishing to enter New Zealand constitute a security risk to this country. These are undertaken not on the initiative of the Service but at the request of a Government department, normally the Department of Labour which is the department responsible for administering the Immigration Act 1964 and which undertakes its own independent inquiries. Under that Act, it is provided that no person other than a New Zealand citizen or a person exempted from the relevant provisions of the Act may enter New Zealand without a permit to do so. Such a permit may be granted by the Minister of Immigration at his discretion, but he is also authorised to delegate this power to members of the department, and the Minister does, in practice, deal personally with only a small proportion of applications for permits which he considers with the assistance of a recommendation made by the department on the basis of its own inquiries and those undertaken by the Service.

2. So long as the policy of the Government of New Zealand is to place restrictions upon the entry of persons into New Zealand, a policy which has been operating in one form or another for very many years, I believe that the potentiality of a person to constitute a security threat to New Zealand is an appropriate and relevant ground for restricting his entry into this country. That being so, it seems to me to follow as a logical consequence that effective, reasonable, and fair inquiries to ascertain whether a person will constitute such a risk are not only desirable but necessary. I therefore do not recommend that there should be any abandonment in principle of the security screening of persons entering New Zealand.

## FINDING

That the principle of subjecting persons entering New Zealand to security screening is sound and in the national interest, but needs selective application in practice.

3. As indicated above, security screening is undertaken by the Service at the request of a Government department, normally the Department of Labour. The circumstances in which such requests are made of the