

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH SUSPECTED INFORMERS
Expansion of Point 6, "Spies", in Discussion Paper On ECC Security

General principles:

- ** no spy-mongering or undisciplined "skinner" about individuals;
- ** to be dealt with at coordinating committee level, not general body level;
- ** to be handled cautiously and sensitively, with due regard for the feelings of all parties concerned;
- ** nobody should be excluded from ECC simply on the basis of a suspicion; exclusion should only be implemented after a thorough process of research and consideration;
- ** no ECC member has the right to take it upon themselves to exclude someone from ECC. The matter must first be taken up by the coordinating committee, which then makes a consensus decision and implements that decision.

Procedure:

1. If anyone in the organisation suspects someone of being a spy, they should discuss it with a coordinating committee member and with no one else.
2. That member then discusses it within the coordinating committee.
3. If warranted, the coordinating committee appoints one or two of its own members to discretely research the circumstances giving rise to the suspicion, and the background of the individual concerned. The committee should decide whether to include some sort of direct consultation with the individual concerned. Such consultation could be in the presence of an attorney.
4. Pertinent information only is reported back by the researchers to the coordinating committee.
5. If there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, and the committee decides to exclude the individual from ECC, implementation could be by means of:
 - * meeting with the individual and explaining why;
 - * writing a letter of explanation, giving the person the option of requesting a meeting if they so wish.
6. If there are no reasonable grounds for suspicion, the committee member who was originally approached should report this back to the member who raised the suspicion. Such suspicions should then be dropped. Only if new grounds for suspicion emerge should the matter be raised again, following the same procedure.

Notes

1. From start to finish, the matter should be dealt with as quickly as is reasonably possible.
2. If an incident occurs which obviously incriminates an individual, the research step could be by-passed. Nevertheless, the coordinating committee should still meet to discuss the matter, and formally approve the exclusion. The person should be formally notified of the exclusion.

3. In most cases it is impossible for the organisation to prove someone is actually a spy, and for the individual to convince the organisation that they are not a spy. Thus, what it often boils down to is a matter of trust, and whether the organisation can function coherently and effectively while that person is part of the organisation. In marginal cases, where no clear, objective, grounds for suspicion have been found, but where a major breakdown of trust exists, the committee should couch their exclusion notice to the individual in terms of trust and organisational effectivity rather than on whether the person is a spy or not.
4. Remember that rumour mongering is a very effective tool in the hands of the state, sowing suspicion, dissention and mistrust. This is why it is very important to follow a thorough process in this whole matter, and to be sure of the facts before taking any action against any individual.

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