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This was the reply to a CBC correspondent researching the documentary, aired in early 1980, titled There Never Was an Arrow. The document release could have been after any supposed 30 year rule expired.

Edward L. Gage
1664-1670

2125-4 TD 8285 (100000)

National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

5 December, 1978

Mr George Robertson
Executive Producer
Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation
Box 500, Terminal A
Toronto, Ontario
M5W 1E6

Dear Mr Robertson:

Further to your letter of the 4th of October 1978 concerning access to the Avro Arrow records, Mr Dixon has asked me to reply on his behalf as he is in Europe for a week or so.

First let me apologize for the delay in replying to your letter. We have had to spend a great deal of time researching the matter and establishing the extent and location of our records. We also have had to review a cross section of the documents in question to determine the extent to which security considerations might preclude their release.

As a result of this review we find that our records fall into two broad categories. First there is the technical category comprising 127 volumes of files dealing with the airframe, engines and armament, navigational, electronic systems, etc. The second category covers the policy aspects and these documents are found in various files dealing with presentations to and discussions within senior bodies such as the Air Council, the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Cabinet Defence Committee, etc.

Almost all the documents in both categories are highly classified i.e. no lower than SECRET. It is possible that a detailed page by page review of the technical files could result in some or all of this material being declassified. On the other hand, it is highly unlikely that many documents from the second category could be declassified because most form the basis of submissions to Government in the form of Memoranda to Cabinet. In any event, the detailed review that would be required of each document in both categories is well beyond the capability of our staffs because of their involvement in the day to day business of the department.

Declass30yrRule?.jpg

NO "30 YEAR"
RULE, MAYBE
A 30 YEAR REVIEW
LAW FOR STUFF THAT
IS RECORDED. BUT
SOME THINGS AREN'T
RECORDED, & SOME
THINGS THAT ARE, ARE
LATER DESTROYED.
Pg. 2 THIS MAKES IT
CLEAR IT WOULD
COST THE APPLICANT
A FORTUNE & STILL
NOT BE ASSURED OF
ANYTHING!

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