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PRESS RELEASE

**Supervision of classification of classified documents finished
in the so-called espionage case**

The classification of the so-called espionage case – based on the supervision of the classifier – has been terminated. In order to provide the general public with complete and credible information the Prosecution Service has taken the necessary measures. As a result, the extract of the state of facts of the indictment and the merit of the court decision have been published on the website of the Prosecution Service.

On 5th December 2011 the *Military Prosecution Office of Budapest* filed an indictment against 4 persons for the felony of espionage and complicity as they contributed to the intelligence activities of the officials of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (hereinafter: FSB) on the territory of Hungary.

According to the facts of the indictment the Minister for Civil National Security Services and the Director-General of the Office of National Security Services (hereinafter: Office) held a meeting with the Deputy Head of the FSB in the building of the Parliament. In the course of the meeting the leakage in information from the Office was mentioned. The representative of the FSB offered that officials under his control would help detect the information leaker by using polygraph tests. The Minister for Civil National Security Services – well aware of the fact that this involved intelligence activities – accepted the offer and instructed the Director-General to cooperate with the officials of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with the above – with conspiracy purposes – persons introduced as Bulgarian psychologists, but in reality members of the FSB took part in the polygraph testing of 16 senior members of the Office or intended for high positions within the Office. In the course of the testing one member of the FSB was operating the equipment while the other FSB officer was in a separate room with two interpreters. From time to time the latter interrupted the course of the testing with questions and instructions.

At the instruction of the Director-General the entry of the foreign officers was not documented. They did not enter the building through the main entrance, and they were escorted and transported by a person who also became indicted in the case.

As a result of the activity of the accused persons the Russian organisation could obtain information on the personality of the tested persons, as well as on the possibility of their joining an intelligence service; thus, the vulnerability of the Office had increased which endangered the international and national security interests of the Republic of Hungary.

Following the management change the newly appointed Director-General of the Office had learned about the polygraph tests and ordered the examination of the incident and filed a memorandum to the Minister for Civil National Security Services. Although the suspicion of espionage arose, he did not file a criminal complaint in the case.

The final decision of the Military Council of the Kaposvár Tribunal acquitted the accused persons due to absence of crime. The court found that the meeting in the building of the Parliament could not be proven, the psychologist carrying out the tests and the interpreters ensured that no sensitive information was accessible to Russian citizens, and it could not be established either that the tested persons were attempted to be recruited, or that the national or international interests of the Office and Hungary became endangered due to the tests.

Budapest, 3rd April 2019

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