

Associate Minister
of National Defence



Ministre associé
de la Défense nationale

18 August 1986

Mr. Robert J. Hughes
Smith & Hughes
Barristers & Solicitors
208-1242 Robson Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6E 1C1

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I refer to your letter of 2 May 1986, addressed to the Office of the Minister of Justice, which was referred to this office for reply.

In a letter addressed to you on 30 June 1986, the Director Personnel Legal Services commented on the issue of conflicting interests between individual rights and the overriding requirement of the Canadian Forces to be operationally effective in the interests of national security.

While the Government is committed to the enhancement of individual rights, this must not be done to the detriment of the operational effectiveness of the Canadian Forces.

Recognizing the importance of and the difficulties involved in attempting to reconcile these conflicting interests, I fully support the position taken by Canadian Forces authorities to maintain the "status quo" until such time as further studies have demonstrated that a change in Canadian Forces policy can be made without adversely affecting its overall operational effectiveness.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dick'.

Paul Dick