



Canadian Human Rights Commission
Commission canadienne des droits de la personne

June 11, 1987 DND / MND

Mr. Svend Robinson, M.P.
Room 386 CB
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Robinson:

Mr. Fairweather has asked me to inform you of a statement that he had prepared at the time that the Honorable Perrin Beatty, Minister of National Defence, announced to the Standing Committee on Human Rights DND's policy on homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

The statement, which was to be used to respond to media enquiries on the issue, reads as follows:

"The policy on the employment of homosexuals proposed by the Armed Forces is clearly unacceptable. It pretends to tolerate the different sexual orientations of individuals, while denying them the right to express these differences.

While I applaud the removal of the invidious requirement on members of the Forces to report on the suspected homosexual activity of other members, I believe the Forces' reliance on the argument that members are unable to tolerate homosexuals in their midst as being not only contrary to human rights principles but also a contradiction to what I assume to be the intent of the policy change.

In summary, the Forces' proposed policy on homosexuality displays a level of intolerance which is both fundamentally contrary to the principles of human rights and not in harmony with the fair-mindedness that characterizes Canadian society."

I think you can see from the above statement that Mr. Fairweather shares your deep concern with the proposed policy.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen O'Neil

Maureen O'Neil
Secretary General

→ cc: Honorable Perrin Beatty, P.C. M.P.
Minister of National Defence