

s.19(1)

FILE COPY

Associate Minister
of National Defence



Ministre associé
de la Défense nationale

APR - 3 1989
AVR

Mr. Svend Robinson, M.P.
Room 386-CONF.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 1989 to the Honourable Bill McKnight, requesting information as to the current status of [REDACTED], and on the Canadian Forces policy on homosexuality.

As indicated in Canadian Forces Administrative Order (CFAO) 19-20, current Service policy does not permit retention of homosexual members in the Canadian Forces. Since the current policy is one of non-tolerance, when an investigation substantiates that a member of the Canadian Forces is a homosexual, his/her Commanding Officer has no option but to recommend his/her release under Item 5(d) of the Queen's Regulations and Orders (QR&O) 15.01. When a recommendation for release under CFAO 19-20 is received at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ), a Special Career Review Board (SCRB) is conducted to determine if the individual concerned is one to whom CFAO 19-20 applies and if he or she should be released.

Notwithstanding the above, as stated by the former National Defence Minister, normal releases under CFAO 19-20 have been suspended pending a review of this policy. In addition, CFAO 19-20 was modified to the effect that the obligation for members to report suspected homosexuality was removed and the continuing exclusion of homosexuals became based on conduct or behaviour rather than on orientation alone. However, in the interim, releases may still be effected under certain conditions as follows:

- a. the member acknowledges he or she is a homosexual and the Department of National Defence considers such individual to be homosexual;

.../2

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

000034

- 2 -

- b. the member desires to be released from the Canadian Forces; and
- c. the member does not object to being released under Item 5(d) to QR&O 15.01.

If the SCRB determines that the member is one to whom CFAO 19-20 applies, and in addition, the foregoing conditions are met, his/her release is effected as soon as administratively possible. If, however, the individual does not wish to be released or objects to a 5(d) release, he/she is retained in the Canadian Forces and his/her career is essentially placed on "hold" while the policy is under review.

With respect to [REDACTED], I cannot advise on the disposition of the case since it is still under consideration by the SCRB.

With respect to security clearance, you indicated in your letter that [REDACTED]'s clearance was revoked. It has not been revoked, but is rather under review by SCRB at NDHQ. While this review is ongoing, his access to classified material is restricted at the Commanding Officer's discretion.

As per your request, attached is a copy of CFAO 19-20, the current Canadian Forces policy on homosexuality. Details of the interim policy which applies while CFAO 19-20 is under review are provided in the preceding paragraphs.

I hope the above information will be to your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
MRS. MARY COLLINS
à signé l'original

Mary Collins

Enclosure: 1

cc: DND Inq
DPCAOR 5-2
D Pers A4

ML/sb
16-3-89

MA

000035