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October 13, 1989

Please Quote: J170:11

Honourable Mary Collins
Associate Minister of Defence
274 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa

DND-ASSOC / MND
Referred to
Transmitted

OCT 15 1989

File # 410-1-DX 5308

Charge a.....

PPS 13689

Dear Mary:

I am writing to follow-up on our earlier exchange of correspondence on the subject of an officer enrolled in the Regular Officer Training Plan who is gay. I have now had an opportunity to meet with the member in question, a [redacted]. [redacted] graduated from RMC in Kingston in June 1988 and subsequently spent a year in [redacted] doing graduate work at the [redacted]. During that time, he acknowledged his homosexual orientation and in fact was involved in a gay relationship in that country. He returned to Canada at the end of September and would in the normal course of events be reporting to Winnipeg on October 19 as [redacted].

Given the current policies of the Canadian Armed Forces, [redacted] would be a career restricted officer and thus ineligible for promotion and offered no further qualification courses or training. In view of these circumstances and in view of the serious impact on [redacted]'s health and welfare, I am writing on his behalf to request that he be granted an immediate release from the Forces and from his obligatory service in these compassionate circumstances. I note that according to CFAO 15-7, release in compassionate circumstances is not conditional on financial repayment. Indeed, it would be quite unacceptable to require [redacted] to make financial repayment when the barriers to his future success as an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces have been erected by the Armed Forces, in its neanderthal policies on homosexuality. Further to this, [redacted] has no intention of subjecting himself to the interrogation techniques of the SIU.

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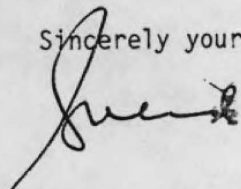
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I was pleased to have received confirmation from Colonel Brian Swan that a clear statement by [redacted] confirming his homosexual activity would be sufficient grounds to initiate the process of release.

Given the urgency of this matter, I would appreciate your early response. I am sending a copy of this letter as well to Colonel Hirter, with whom I have discussed the matter.

Sincerely yours,



Svend J Robinson, MP
Burnaby-Kingsway

cc Colonel G R Hirter

SJR/jp

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