

s.19(1)

Associate Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre associé  
de la Défense nationale

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

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 1989 concerning [redacted] and the Canadian Forces policy on homosexuality.

I apologize for the unduly-long delay in replying to you; however, the delay was precipitated by the ongoing review of the Canadian Forces policy in this regard and my desire to ensure that my reply to you incorporated, to the extent possible, the most recent and up-to-date information. Unfortunately, this ongoing review has not yet been completed; however, I will not keep you waiting longer.

Specifically with respect to [redacted] you have requested that I clarify a certain point dealing with his security clearance. It is acknowledged that some of the documentation which you have attached to your letter does mention that [redacted]'s security clearance was revoked; however, this is, in fact, inaccurate as his clearance was not revoked. [redacted] was only temporarily denied access to classified information and material while his security clearance was being reviewed by the Security Clearance Review Board. The review of his case was concluded on April 4, 1989 and his security clearance was confirmed, not reinstated, on April 17, 1989.

Current Canadian Forces policy prohibits the enrolment or retention of persons who engage in the practice of homosexual acts. This policy is reflected in Canadian Forces Administrative Order (CFAO) 19-20, a copy of which was provided to you with my letter of April 3, 1989. As you have requested, I am enclosing a copy of the superseded version of this Order (AL 43/73). The basic principle of this policy has not changed.

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You have asked me to address the apparent discrepancies between my statements to you and those of the former Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Perrin Beatty. With respect, there is no discrepancy in the information which has been provided to you. As you were advised by Mr. Beatty, while the Canadian Forces policy on homosexuality is one of non-tolerance, during an interim period while the policy is being reviewed at the senior governmental level, no member of the Canadian Forces engaged in the practice of homosexual activities is being released against his or her wishes. Nevertheless, all suspected cases of homosexuality are being reviewed by Canadian Forces authorities, and, if it is determined that the individual concerned is to be released during this interim period, the release is effected only if the member wishes to be released and does not object to being released under Item 5(d) to Chapter 15 of the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Canadian Forces. This Item of Release is an honourable one which, in these circumstances, is involuntary in character only insofar as it is initiated by Canadian Forces authorities and not the member. Those members who object to being released under these terms are retained in the Canadian Forces pending formalization of the policy. The policy is applicable to all serving members of the Canadian Forces regardless of rank or trade classification. Accordingly, there are no written materials touching on the implementation of CFAO 19-20 to any specific trades or officer classifications.

The information you have requested as an update on the number of members released from the Canadian Forces by virtue of the application of CFAO 19-20 is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Homosexual</u>	<u>Sexual Deviation</u>	<u>Total</u>
1988	8	9	17
1989	6	13	19

There are currently 16 cases of members to whom it has been determined that CFAO 19-20 applies but who are not being released pending final review of the policy.

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With respect to potential candidates for enrolment, applicants are not routinely questioned about sexual orientation. However, during the interview portion of the selection process, military Career Counsellors are directed to ask candidates about their sexual orientation, if there is reason to believe the candidate may be an active homosexual. If the response confirms that fact, the candidate is advised that current Canadian Forces policy precludes active homosexuals from enrolling in the Forces.

The personal information herein relating to [REDACTED] is being disclosed to you under the provisions of the Privacy Act solely for the purpose of assisting him in resolving a problem.

While I appreciate that you may have differing views with respect to this Canadian Forces policy, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide you with this further information.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNE PAR  
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Mary Collins

Enclosure: 1

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