

January 5, 1977

RE: DRAFT MEMORANDUM: HOMOSEXUALITY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND NATIONAL
SECURITY

I have the following comments to make on both the draft cabinet document and the draft memorandum to DMs and Agency Heads.

- (a) I believe the philosophical expressions made relevant to the Criminal Code and the "legality" or "illegality" of such acts should be omitted from the paper. It could only raise another storm. The fact (or otherwise) that homosexuality is contained in the CCC makes no real difference to its acceptance on social mores. Perhaps more emphasis could be placed on the latter.
- (b) Are we to permit minority groups ("gay") to dictate acceptability of the practice? Let's listen to them and then ignore them - or, better still, let's tell them openly and frankly that they have no more "rights" than that vast majority of Canadians who do not condone such practices. Perhaps Gordon's draft could emphasize this. I don't believe we can "accept some and not others. The situation must be viewed as being either "black" or "white" and we must be prepared to stand by any decision (however unpleasant) made.
- (c) Confidence and trust cannot, and should not, be placed in homos.
- (d) Do we have any figures to illustrate the numbers of homos/lesbians currently employed in Gov't - and of the number, how many have TS or Secret clearances - and have any ever compromised their positions of trust because of their weaknesses? If these were available, I believe it might lend some support to rejection of employment. Something worth considering.

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- (e) A homo's admitted practice need not necessarily free him from blackmail or coercive pressures - for example, through his weakness he could be blackmailed or coerced to commit other acts to "protect" his lover who might be employed in a sensitive position. It has a "snowball" effect and, whether or not admitted, the character weakness remains.

- (f) If it is accepted that homos may be employed in the government service, it must be made abundantly clear to them that "career restrictions" would ensue most certainly at one time or another during their employment.

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It seems reasonable to me that no specific policy be developed in relation to homosexuality. Rather, each individual case should be reviewed and a decision made as to the individuals "acceptability for employment", in the particular position.

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