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Department of National Defence

OTTAWA, Ont
26 May 53

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CONFIDENTIAL

Disposal of Airwomen Who Have Committed Homosexual Acts or Who Are Suspected of Having Homosexual Tendencies

1 Homosexual behaviour between adult females is not, at the present time, a criminal offence under the Criminal Code of Canada. Therefore the policy in handling homosexual problems, as it applies to airmen, does not apply to the handling of the problem among airwomen or women officers. This instruction is to cover the handling of homosexual problems or lesbianism among airwomen and among women officers.

2 In all cases, all the facts are to be laid before the unit SMO immediately, who will call on the Social Welfare Officer if the SMO considers an inquiry is necessary.

3 If the first discovery that there may be a problem of homosexual behaviour among airwomen is made by the SP, all the information in the possession of the SP is to be laid before the unit SMO immediately. The unit SMO will call in the Area Social Welfare Officer to make further inquiry and the SPs are not to conduct an independent inquiry into the homosexual aspect of the case. There may be other factors in the situation which, however, do need SP investigation. The Social Welfare Officer and the SP will work co-operatively on such cases and the SPs must keep the Social Welfare Officers informed. If the Social Welfare Officer has first knowledge of the situation and other factors appear, the Social Welfare Officer will call in the SP to handle any aspect of the case which may lead to disciplinary or civil action.

Proven Cases

4 If the facts are such as to establish a strong prima facie case indicating that a homosexual act has been committed, release action is to be taken as outlined below.

5 If a civilian is involved and that civilian is a juvenile, according to the meaning of the Child Protection Legislation in the province where the act took place, all the facts are to be laid by the CO before the Child Welfare Authorities for their action. If the civilian is not a juvenile, this action will not be taken.

6 Where there is no doubt that an airwoman or woman officer has committed homosexual acts, or is so influencing others, she is to be released under the provisions of QR(Air) art 15.01 item 5(b)(ii), "Being considered unsuitable for reasons other than misconduct, inefficiency or medical unfitness".

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DPA/PA5, DAPC, AMPSO/WP

c.c. AUC
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Suspected Cases

7 In cases not coming within the purview of paras 4, 5 and 6, but where homosexual tendencies or behaviour are suspected, the individual is to be referred immediately to the SMO and Command Neuropsychiatrist for an opinion as to whether homosexuality is present. If the person is considered to be homosexual, the diagnosis of "psychopathic personality - homosexual type" is to be made. These persons are to be released under the provisions of QR(Air) art 15.01 item 5(b)(ii), "Being considered unsuitable for reasons other than misconduct, inefficiency or medical unfitness".

8 Any further inquiries and all interrogation into such alleged behaviour are to be conducted by or under the direction of the Social Welfare Branch Officers who will work in close co-operation with medical officers. The Social Welfare Officers may request the assistance of the SP to carry out investigation procedures which the Social Welfare Officers are not equipped to do. In the event that no Social Welfare Officer is immediately available, and the matter is urgent, the inquiry is to be done by the medical officer in the manner set out above. The Social Welfare Officers who may make such inquiries must be graduate social workers. If the Social Welfare Officer is male, he must not conduct any interrogation which could be of an embarrassing nature to the airwoman. Such questioning as he does, must be done in the presence of a woman officer or a nursing sister.

Admitted Cases

9 When an officer or airwoman voluntarily admits the commission of homosexual acts or the tendency to such acts to an SMO or a Social Welfare Officer, and a diagnosis of "psychopathic personality - homosexual type" is confirmed by the Command Neuropsychiatrist, the officer or airwoman is to be released under the provisions of QR(Air) item 5(b)(ii), "Being considered unsuitable for reasons other than misconduct, inefficiency or medical unfitness".

10 The medical records for all personnel released because of proven, admitted or suspected homosexual tendencies are to be annotated "psychopathic personality - homosexual type".

11 When release is effected under this policy, consideration is to be given by the Social Welfare Officer to counselling and rehabilitation of the persons affected. Many young immature girls, through no fault of their own, may be concerned and, after their release from the Air Force, they will need the guidance and help given by an appropriate social agency or a psychiatrist. This help should be offered to all airwomen or women officers released under the terms of this policy letter.

12 The contents of this letter are to be notified by confidential letter to the CO of all units within your Command.

Handwritten:
HWS
Bomby's P.A.S.

Original Signed by
(FG Watt) A/V/M
Air Member for Personnel

MAY 29 1953
(F.G. Watt) A/V/M
for CAS