

September 28, 1960.

PERSONAL and SECRET

Dear Mr. Green,

The October 3 issue of Midnight, a scurrilous Montreal weekly now on the local newsstands, carries a report that this Department and the Department of National Defence are now actively engaged in ridding their staffs of homosexuals. The report has not as yet led to any press enquiries being directed to us. I fear, however, that it may only be a matter of time before we shall have to deal with them. In such event I suggest that our basic line should be the following statement:

"The Canadian Government ensures that certain sensitive positions in the Public Service are occupied only by those whose character and habits are such that they are not vulnerable to blackmail. This has long been a normal security precaution."

If supplementary questions are asked I think these should be answered with a view to assuring enquirers that nothing unusual is now occurring in the service. Thus if the question is whether an extraordinary effort is being made to separate sexual deviates from the service the answer should be an unqualified no. If we are asked to provide statistics of separations from the Department during each of, say, the last three years we should provide totals which are of public record. (I attach a statement of these statistics which I think are re-assuring?) We should not however provide

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The Honourable Howard C. Green,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
c/o Permanent Mission of Canada to the U.N.,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

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any breakdown of reasons for separations or of an individual reason for separation. Our explanation for such refusal could simply be that we have never made this information public in the past and see no reason why we should change our ways now.

If you agree with the views I have advanced above, you may wish to retain a copy of this letter to assist you or your office to meet any enquiries which may be directed to you. Again, if you agree, I should be grateful if you would so indicate on the margin of this letter and return it, marked for my personal attention.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. ROBERTSON

N. A. Robertson.