

TOP SECRET

Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
A

O. i/c "A" Ops.

FROM
DE

O. i/c Security Service Task Force

SUBJECT
OBJETAllegations of Improper Conduct
Character Weakness Investigations

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ	
TOP SECRET	
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE	
[REDACTED]	
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE	
DATE	
25 AUG 77	

1. I wish to confirm my discussion with you on the matter of the "Globe & Mail" article of Aug. 23, 1977 on the above topic.
2. To provide either or both the Solicitor-General and the Commission of Inquiry an appropriate response on this subject, please provide the Task Force with a resume of policy and procedures in this field. With the intent of documenting our case, please ensure that copies of all authorities and precedences, including marginal notations etc., are attached.
3. Enclosed is copy # 4 of Homosexuality and Canadian Internal Security prepared as a working paper for the 1969 Royal Commission on Security. This should assist you in preparing a current threat assessment and goes a long way to meeting the DG's request for documented cases of compromise. Its return is requested at the conclusion of your paper, however for your future information it is held on file IA-10-3-4 Supp. B (Vol. 31).
4. S/Sgt. Young (3-2093) is available to answer any further questions that may arise.

D.D. 30-9-77

[Signature] f/
(A.M. Barr), Supt.,
O. i/c Task Force

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Globe & Mail Aug. 23/77.

GLOBE & MAIL 23 Aug. 77.

Gay group claims RCMP is unfair to homosexuals

By LAWRENCE MARTIN

The National Gay Rights Coalition is calling on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to stop labelling homosexuality a "character weakness."

In a letter sent to the RCMP and Solicitor-General Francis Fox, coalition spokesman David Garmaise said the RCMP is "living in the nineteenth century. Classifying homosexuality as a character weakness today is absurd."

Mr. Garmaise said that Mr. Fox, whose department is responsible for the RCMP, sent him a letter Aug. 3 saying, "I can assure you that there is no Government policy to discriminate overtly or covertly against homosexuals."

Mr. Garmaise cited a Globe and Mail story last week which said RCMP information on homosexuals is kept in "character weakness" files.

Superintendent John Bentham, RCMP spokesman, confirmed that "we consider homosexuality a character weakness for an applicant to the RCMP." He denied saying that information on homosexuals is filed under such a classification. But he would not confirm or deny yesterday whether that happens.

RCMP documents shown to The Globe and Mail say that for purposes of security screening for job applicants there is an "O80" interest code classification which pertains to "character weakness". The documents say character

weakness "relates solely to D 939-7 files" which are files on homosexuals, RCMP sources say.

Despite the documents, the RCMP will not confirm the force uses code names and numbers for files.

Superintendent Bentham said yesterday the force would wait until it received a copy of the letter from the gay coalition and then decide whether to respond.

In his letter Mr. Fox told the coalition that "an individual's sexual orientation does not prevent that individual from obtaining employment in the Federal Government or from obtaining a security clearance."

Mr. Garmaise asked in his letter, "Why then is the RCMP classifying homosexuality as a character weakness? The RCMP is part of the Federal Government. Will it hire a person it knows is homosexual? Does the RCMP refuse to grant a security clearance to someone who is openly gay? Or to someone who hides his or her sexual orientation? We demand answers to these questions."

Mr. Fox said in his letter that "it is extremely difficult as you well know to prevent prejudice in all people. We make every possible effort to ensure that such attitudes are not prevalent among personnel and recruiting officers and administrative staff."



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