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National Defence

Défense nationale

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
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Quartier général de la Défense nationale
Ottawa, Canada
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20 December 1984

CDS

DISCUSSION PAPER -
EQUALITY RIGHTS ISSUES

You are already aware, I believe, that this material for the Minister reached my office at a time when it would not have done any good to pass it on because the Minister was on the point of leaving. Fortunately, a check with the PCO Social Development Secretariat confirmed that the item would not be on the agenda for the 19 December meeting of the Cabinet Committee in any case.

As a consequence, we have a little time to consider further how best to put the CF case forward. The matter will not now be considered until Cabinet meetings resume, probably in the second week of January.

I would like to suggest that, in the first instance, more attempts be made at the level of officials to see if we can reach an understanding with Justice, so we can reduce the need for the Minister to intervene.

If our officials, after further attempts, feel that they have gone as far as they can, perhaps you should consider raising your concerns directly with Roger Tassé, the Deputy Minister of Justice. I feel that since this is effectively a Forces' matter about which you have a better understanding of the implications than I (and, frankly, stronger convictions on some points), you could present the Forces' position in a more convincing manner than I could. I believe that it would be totally appropriate for you to do so.

Should it be necessary for the Minister (or his office on his behalf, if he is not back in time) to intercede eventually at the political level, I would suggest that the Briefing Note not be used, but the

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salient points in it be concisely incorporated into the memorandum which you could send to the Minister. I think the Briefing Note is much too long for the Minister or his staff to use effectively as a basis for representations. Insofar as the attached discussion paper is concerned, it would be a good idea to sideline or flag those portions applicable to the CF and about which you have concerns, and to draw attentions to those sections in the covering memorandum.



D. B. Dewar