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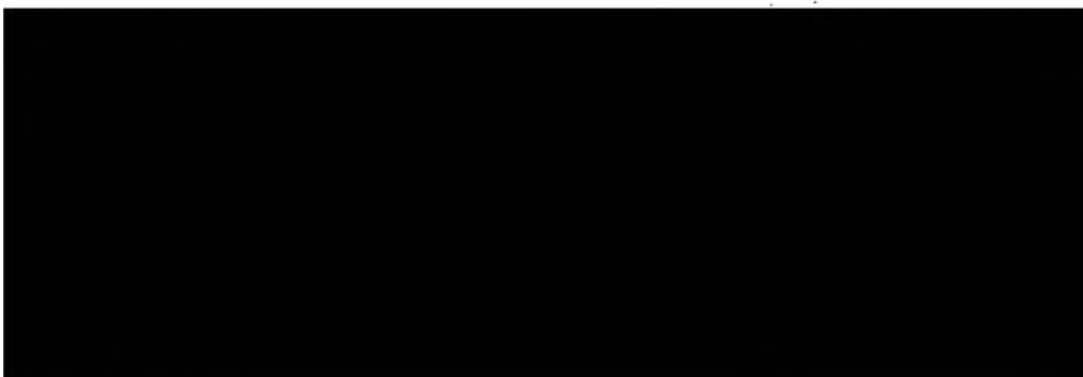
BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE MINISTERS

SUBJECT: CANADIAN FORCES POLICY ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

ISSUE:

1. Arrangements are being made to survey nearly 6000 members of the Canadian Forces to determine their attitudes toward homosexuality.

BACKGROUND:



3. Approval from the Cabinet Committee on Communications to proceed with the survey was received on 17 January 1991. The following action has been taken:

- a. commanders and commanding officers have been advised of the necessity for the survey, the conditions that will apply, and the application of solicitor/client privilege to the survey and the survey results;

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- b. initial contact has been made with base and station staff who will be responsible for survey administration at the local level;
- c. copies of the survey questionnaire have been forwarded to the local coordinators; and
- d. advisory letters requesting participation have been sent to the approximately 6,000 potential survey respondents.

CURRENT STATUS:

- 4. Preparations for the administration of the survey continue. Potential respondents are being advised that participation is voluntary and that survey completion will be done anonymously. No record will be maintained of an individual's participation or non-participation.
- 5. The survey will only be administered at bases and stations in Canada. In some locations (eg: CFB Halifax), it is anticipated that some potential respondents may not be available due to operational and training commitments. Nevertheless, the survey sample is sufficiently large that this is not expected to cause any difficulty.
- 6. Staff of the Assistant Deputy Minister (Communications and Public Affairs) have developed communications guidance including a response to query and possible questions and answers.

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FUTURE ACTION:

7. It is anticipated that the administration of the questionnaire will be completed in the period 11-22 February 1991. Consolidation, analysis and interpretation of the survey results will likely be completed about mid-March.

RESPONSIBLE GROUP
PRINCIPAL:

LGen J.A. Fox,
ADM(Per), 992-7582

PREPARED BY:

G.L. Logan,
DPP 2, 995-0014

OFFICER AVAILABLE TO
RESPOND TO QUESTIONS:

D.E. Munro
DGPPTF, 995-0018

DATE PREPARED:

1 Feb 91

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