

Sexual Orient'n
Can'n Forces
Catherine L
3045-1
(6)

CONFIDENTIAL

September 30, 1991

NOTE TO NORMAN SPECTOR (via Paul Tellier)
(c.c. Ronald Bilodeau and Shirley Serafini)

from: Dick Gentles

Mr. Masse's Request To Meet With the Prime Minister

We understand that Mr. Masse, accompanied by General de Chastelain and Bob Fowler, has asked to see the Prime Minister in the next couple of days. We have been advised by the Department that the primary reason for the meeting would be to inform the Prime Minister of a decision to change the Canadian Forces policy regarding sexual orientation.

As you know, the Canadian Forces have had a long standing policy prohibiting homosexuals from joining or serving in the military. This policy has come under heavy criticism in recent years and it now been challenged in the courts on the grounds that it violates Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. [REDACTED] has

General de Chastelain has therefore agreed that the time has come to change the policy. He is proposing to announce on Thursday that the Canadian Forces will no longer deny enrolment to homosexuals who otherwise meet entry standards. The existing policy will be replaced with one dealing with inappropriate sexual conduct, both heterosexual and homosexual.

While this issue has been discussed among Ministers for some time, there has not been a consensus on endorsing the current policy or directing that it be changed. The decision by General de Chastelain to change the policy at this juncture is preferable to awaiting a court decision [REDACTED]

We believe there may be some strongly held views within caucus on this issue. It is therefore for consideration whether Mr. Masse and General de Chastelain should apprise national caucus this Wednesday, in advance of a public announcement.

This change in policy will re-open the debate on changing the Charter to include specific mention of sexual orientation. The Prime Minister would want to be assured that Ms. Campbell is prepared and that he is comfortable with her approach to the issue.

We would recommend that the Prime Minister agree to see Mr. Masse. We would suggest that Ms. Campbell be included in order to discuss the larger issue of changing the Charter.

A briefing note will be submitted should a meeting be arranged.


D.G.