

CLERK OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL AND
SECRETARY TO THE CABINET



GREFFIER DU CONSEIL PRIVÉ ET
SECRÉTAIRE DU CABINET

s.23

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SECRET

December 13, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Canadian Forces Policy On Sexual Orientation

PCO - FPRO BCP - BRFP
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We understand that as a result of a discussion of this matter at Caucus Wednesday, you have undertaken to speak with both the Minister of Justice and the Chief of the Defence Staff.

It is apparent that the split in Caucus on this issue is irreconcilable. It is also apparent that a change in policy is inevitable, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The way ahead will therefore have to be determined by weighing the relative impact of the two options for the change in policy to occur: letting the courts decide the issue; or agreeing to General de Chastelain changing the policy now.

We are of the view that letting this matter drag on until a judgement is rendered in the courts would be very embarrassing to the Government and could be harmful to General de Chastelain. Not acting on his advice has the appearance of a lack of Government support and thus carries the risk of undercutting his leadership of the Forces. We would therefore recommend that you agree to proceeding with a change in policy now. Having the change done by the Chief of the Defence Staff in a low key manner, similar to what was done in the RCMP, should minimize the concerns within Caucus.

The enclosed table was prepared at Norman Spector's request last week for the purpose of guiding the discussion at Caucus. You may find it of some assistance in your discussions with Ms. Campbell and John de Chastelain.

Gentles

 Paul M. Tellier

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