



TRANSMITTAL SLIP - NOTE D'ENVOI

TO/À MINA (via ~~ACC~~ and USS)

FROM/DE ADA

SUBJECT/SUJET DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAYS AND  
LESBIANS

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Date

May 28, 1992

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REQUIRED BY/DEMANDÉ POUR

Konrad Sigurdson  
Director,  
Personnel Policy and Planning  
Secretariat

19 JUIN 1992  
04 JUIN 1992

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EXT 401

The Secretary of State for External Affairs



Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

Canada

June 25, 1992

Mr. Svend J. Robinson, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Room 386, Confederation Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Svend:

In response to your letter April 8, 1992, (9205455) expressing concerns about the personnel policies and practices of this Department, I would first like to clarify that our procedures are based on current Canadian law and are not developed in isolation. Being homosexual is not an obstacle to obtaining employment, a security clearance or enjoying a successful career in the foreign service.

The Department is aware that there are a number of homosexual couples among its foreign service employees. The Department abides by the definition of spouse used by the Canadian Government which requires parties to be of the opposite sex. As homosexual companions are not legally recognized as spouses, they are not entitled to certain benefits including those under the Foreign Service Directives. All collective agreements are required to conform with these standard usage definitions.

The Department is currently monitoring the progress of a number of court cases which, in essence, revolve around attempts to have homosexual companions considered for legal purposes as spouses or equivalents. As these cases are dealt with by the courts, and as other developments in the law occur, the Department will review its policies and procedures.

I hope the above information is helpful. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to write to me again.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed by  
Barbara McDougall  
à signé l'original

Barbara McDougall