



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

May 13, 1986

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
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CABINET DU COMMISSAIRE 320 E#2

REVISÉ
REVISEUR
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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence
JP-40-44

PERSONAL ATTENTION OF:

The Commissioner,
R.C.M.P.
Ottawa

Sir,

Re: Equality Rights
Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1. You will recall that at the last C.O.'s/D.S.R.R. Conference, I expressed the view that now that the decision has been made by our duly elected Government with respect to homosexuals and their rights in society, the Force should not overly concern itself with whether we agree with it or not but rather, we should be looking at how best we adjust and cope with the decision. I am not sure of the accuracy of the translation but I know this is what I said in French. I also said that I cannot/will not support any kind of tactic which would place the Force in a position of "drumming up" public support against Government policy. This is not our role and our influence as the National Police Force should not be underestimated. In New Brunswick, we took the Premier to the Criminal Court on a reasonable case of possession of a small quantity of drugs and we had to face the outrageous allegations that we were out to bring down a constitutionally elected government. One can well imagine what would happen if we consciously used any kind of pressure tactics as the so-called interpreters of the public good.

2. I perhaps talked more than my share but I could not sit silent to some of the suggestions that were being made as to how we should deal with this issue. Even if we went to the extreme and all resigned, all 18,000 or so of us, I would still support the Government in placing the military in our jobs until 18,000 new Canadians were hired to replace us. As one of the Reps from "D" Division said; what next? I have travelled the world over with N.D.C. studying different political systems and why things are the way they are in some parts of the world. It is not the role of the police in a democracy to "sandwich themselves" between the public and the duly elected officials.

3. During very informal discussions after the conference, there appeared to be an uncertainty in the minds of some that those of us who spoke in the terms related above were in support of or defending

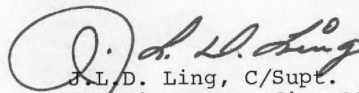
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homosexuality. The very reason for this letter now is to assure you that I do not support homosexuality, I do not condone it nor do I defend it. What I support and will continue to support is the right of Government to govern. We may not always agree with their decisions but we have a responsibility to carry them out. To do otherwise would be an attack on the very fabric of our democratic society.

4. As one of your Commanding Officers, I urge you to continue to take a responsible position, as you have done in the past, on this sensitive issue and to not accede to any type of pressure tactics against the Government. It is unfortunate that the Government is placing a higher priority on this issue than on what we in the law enforcement community see as a much higher priority and that is: the capital punishment issue. Nonetheless and having said that, it was a decision for the Government to make and they made it. We had our input into it and now that it is made, let us look at the policies we need to put it into place and make it work.

5. This is the kind of submission which does not require a response but I do want to thank you for taking the time to read it.



J.L.D. Ling, C/Supt.
"J" Div. Commanding Officer

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