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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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OTTAWA
October 3, 1986

The Hon. Perrin Beatty
Minister of National Defence
Room 707 Conf.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ont.

DND / MND
Referred to /
Transmis à J. S. W.
OCT 6 1986
4242
File No. 209-4
Dossier No. 209-4
Charged to / Charge à _____

Dear Perrin:

I am writing with respect to the position of the Canadian Armed Forces in implementing the commitment made by the government last March to prohibit all discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within federal jurisdiction. General G. Thériault Chief of Defence Staff, appeared before the Standing Committee on Human Rights on June 17 last. At that time, he indicated that a special task force had been established within the Armed Forces to examine the response to the Equality Rights Report. A group chaired by Colonel Kee is examining the question of sexual orientation.

Both Harvey André during an earlier appearance before the Standing Committee on National Defence and General Thériault at the June meeting, made it very clear that men and women within the Armed Forces who happen to be gay or lesbian would not be dismissed from the Forces solely for that reason. General Thériault said "Quite clearly given this new position taken by the government, homosexuals will not be eliminated from the Armed Forces strictly and simply because they might be labeled as homosexuals." Mr. André made it very clear that he took a similar position.

I have been approached by a number of individuals, one of whom, [REDACTED], I have written you about who were dismissed solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. I would ask that you immediately reinstate any individual who has been let go in breach of this declared policy of the government.

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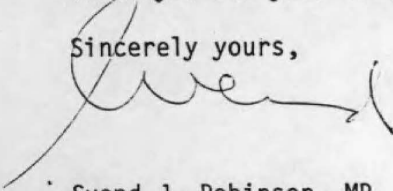
General Thériault undertook to provide the Committee with a number of items including:

- (a) written directives concerning interim policy on sexual orientation (page 5:14 of minutes)
- (b) the numbers discharged in 1985 and 1986 to date under CFAO 19(20) (page 5:14 to 5:15)
- (c) copies of any written guidelines or questions or mandate for the task force (page 5:15)
- (d) a copy of the study referred to by Brigadier General McLellan on homosexuals in the United Kingdom Armed Forces

Finally, please inform me when the report of the Charter Task Force will be completed. I would as well seek your assurance that this document will be made available to members of the Standing Committee on Human Rights.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Svend J. Robinson, MP
Burnaby

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