

s.19(1)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

OTTAWA

March 11, 1991

PLEASE QUOTE: J9000342

Hon Mary Collins
Associate Minister of Defence
274 Confederation Building
House of Commons

DND-ASSOC / MND
Referred to
Transmis a..... 2280.....

MAR 12 1991

X / 17531

File No.
Dossier No..... 4/10.....

Charged to / Charge a.....

Dear Mary,

I am writing concerning a member of the Canadian Armed Forces currently stationed at [redacted]. [redacted] is a gay man who is career restricted pursuant to CFAO 19-20. I met with [redacted] during a visit to [redacted] in December. During that meeting he raised a number of serious concerns with me. The Commander of [redacted] to which he belongs has recommended his promotion to Corporal rank retroactive to November 1989 (see enclosed). This recommendation was rejected by the Base Commander due to references to "admitted conduct in public places". This absurd decision is based upon [redacted]'s volunteered admission that on one occasion he engaged in a homosexual act in the back seat of his car in an isolated area in the [redacted]. Clearly engaging in sexual activity in the back seat of a car in a remote area is not grounds for punitive action in ordinary circumstances. Where it to be so I suspect that a significant proportion of members of the Canadian Armed Forces would be punished accordingly. I would ask that you recognize the harshness and unfairness of this decision and accept the recommendation for promotion of [redacted].

Furthermore, [redacted] has repeatedly requested copies of the tapes and transcripts of the two SIU interrogations to which he was subject in August and September of 1989 as well as a copy of the SIU report on his conduct. To this date he has been refused all of this. I would ask for the basis for this refusal and further request that you make this information available to him forthwith.

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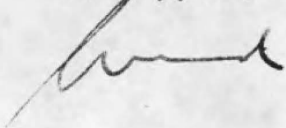
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Please indicate to me the current status of [REDACTED]'s redress of grievance. A December 1990 telex from DNHQ indicated that at that time it was "under consideration by the Commander of CFE". It is my understanding that there are strict limitations in time for response to grievances and I would ask why these limits have been consistently ignored in this particular instance.

Finally I seek your confirmation that the end of [REDACTED]'s current terms of service is August 31, 1992 as set out in Paragraph 5 of Lt Col Campbell's memo attached. As well I would seek clarification on the statement made in Paragraph 3 of that memo suggesting that Lt Col Campbell is "not compelled to protect ([REDACTED]) from the verbal abuse he is likely to receive from other members of my unit" should it become known that he is gay. Does not the Canadian Armed Forces policy respecting harassment require that Commanding Officers ensure that members in their unit are not subject to unwarranted verbal or physical abuse? If it does not do so I would urge you to immediately ensure that it is amended to make this clear. I would ask as well that you provide me with clarification of the obligations of Commanding Officers in this regard. I look forward to your early reply on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Svend J Robinson, MP
Burnaby-Kingsway

Enclosure

SJR:jp
PASS

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