

MEMORANDUM

7 May 58

Director General, Joint Medical Services

Women Personnel - Stn St. Margarets

1 On 27 Mar 58, two airwomen suspected of homosexual tendencies were admitted from RCAF Station St. Margarets to the hospital at RCAF Stn Rockcliffe for psychiatric observation. The CO of St. Margarets, after 9 months of investigation had finally been able to obtain two signed statements bearing on the situation which he sent forward as evidence to support a possible diagnosis of psychopathic personality-homosexual type. These documents were signed by a woman Cpl and an LAW and were marked confidential. The CO had further requested that they should not be shown to the suspects because both the Cpl and LAW had expressed their fear of physical violence if the fact became known that they were informing on the suspects.

2 The Senior Social Welfare Officer was at Stn St. Margarets the afternoon of 25 Apr and at that time the woman administrative officer told her that the LAW was so fearful of the suspects and their friends, that she was frightened to return to her quarters to sleep.

3 On 28 Apr the Senior Social Welfare Officer telephoned W/C O'Brian, the consultant psychiatrist, as to the progress of the case. He stated that he was not able to make a diagnosis of psychopathic personality-homosexual type or recommend release of these airwomen. This was based on interviews and the fact that he did not feel the written evidence would stand in a court. Then he stated "I showed the letters to the airwomen and, of course, they denied the truth of the contents." W/C O'Brian stated that a recommendation had gone forward, presumably from him, to ADC HQ that the two suspects be posted from St. Margarets and separated by a reasonable distance. The suspects were released from Rockcliffe hospital 29 Apr 58.

4 Station St. Margarets has been notified of the situation and steps are being taken to prevent any trouble during the period the two airwomen are being cleared from the unit. It is unfortunate in this particular case that the signed documents were shown to the suspects. It will probably be difficult in the future to get written evidence or other statements from airwomen in a similar situation.

5 Even though no diagnosis was made in this particular instance it is interesting to note that one suspect has been the storm centre of similar upsets on at least two other stations. On these occasions it has not been possible to obtain written statements from other airwomen, nor has it been possible to obtain direct evidence.

6 Your attention is drawn to two aspects of this case, i.e., the length of time the suspected airwomen were hospitalized before it was decided that no diagnosis could be made, and the wisdom of showing written statements to persons suspected of an offence which they had denied committing.

DGMS(A)
According to Brig Hunter.
-this is your responsibility.
Will you take this matter
up w/ C. Rk. Hospital
please. (J.G. Kerr) A/V/M
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(4-5334)

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