

OSOMM
c/o Lucie Richardson
P.O. box 294
Mynarski Park Alberta
October 24, 1984

Mr. R. Coates
Minister of National Defence
Ottawa Ontario

Dear Sir:

OSOMM is the Organization of Spouses of Military Members.

As you know, ours is a highly transient life style with its own special problems and needs.

These unique needs and problems have always been eclipsed or neglected by the needs of the military itself. We feel that our organization is a much-needed support system for spouses and children and is providing a united voice in expressing these ideas to those in a position to act upon the information.

It is our understanding that co-operation can be expected in all areas except those deemed to be "political". Since we live on federal property, no political activity can take place.

A "political" label on our group means that we could not meet on any base or station. Door to door contact with our neighbours could be seen as a violation of trespass regulations.

We wish these points to be clarified. Even circulation of a letter requesting a dental plan is termed "political", as is a local petition to have traffic lights installed at a dangerous intersection.

We feel that we have a legal right to organize ourselves and to associate on other bases or stations without fear of being arrested. Our aims as a group are not political in

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nature unless making the needs of our group known to both the DND and the government constitutes "politics".

As we do not pose a threat to national security and seek to work through our elected government, we should have all our constitutional rights as guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We are requesting written authority to associate and organize as a group on other bases and stations, including door to door contact in the PMQ's.

Since it is our desire to work within the system and since we do not wish to cause undue embarrassment to either the military or the government, we are temporarily withholding our situation from the public.

Enclosed please find a list of our aims and objectives as well as a long-term list of national objectives.

Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Lucie Richardson

Mary anne Jablonski

Gayle Siford

Susan Kerr

Leslie Taylor

(Organizing Committee for OSOMM)