



## T.H.Q. MEMO

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**TO:** Colonel Norman Howe  
CHIEF SECRETARY

**FROM:** Graham R Sapwell  
DIRECTOR EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

**DATE:** 19 April 1996

**SUBJECT:** CHARGES AGAINST MAJOR ALLAN SMITH (R)

COPIES

---

John Dalziel is fully briefed on the available information concerning the background and charges against Major Smith.

No contact had been made by the media to John as at 8:30 this morning. One newspaper report appeared in the Sun this morning (copy attached).

Subsequent contact with the police in Western Australia last evening, through the divisional commander, confirms that Major Smith has been released on bail to appear before the Court in Perth on 2 May 1996.

The police are not able to provide us with any more information concerning:

- the nature of the charges
- when the offences occurred
- the details of the victims

We are told that we do not have access to this information before 2 May. The significance of that information in this case is that Major Smith may well have not been an officer at the time of the alleged offences. (A copy of Major Smith's career record is attached.)

John Dalziel agrees that this continuing lack of knowledge makes it very difficult for us to have a completely prepared statement before the case commences.

The police in Western Australia have been very sympathetic, but were unable to provide significant advance information about yesterday's preliminary hearing in Melbourne.

It also appears Major Smith did not inform us of the proceedings either.

...../2

There is one residual question raised for our consideration by the police in Western Australia, and that is whether The Salvation Army would be funding Major Smith's defence. I have a feeling that they may feel that if the organisation is providing legal support to Major Smith, they would have to withdraw their contact with us and this is somewhat understandable. I have undertaken to raise this matter for consideration so that the divisional commander or myself can respond to the police on that aspect.

It is my opinion that if we are to adopt a media position of concerned neutrality before the case proceeds (which is a summary of our current agreed position with John Dalziel) then we would be in some difficulty in providing such legal support to Major Smith. Furthermore, I understand that the police will be saying in the case that The Salvation Army has been totally cooperative, in any event.

As to the case itself, Major Smith's attitude to the charges will be a significant factor as to whether evidence is required and a full-blown case presented by the prosecution in open court. If Major Smith were to make any admissions, then oral evidence by the complainants may not be needed, and the case itself may be significantly reduced in time taken, with reduced media exposure.

I confirm my understanding that The Salvation Army is not directly involved in these proceedings at this stage.

Yours sincerely



Graham R Sapwell

**DIRECTOR EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

cc. Lieut.-Colonel Edward Schmidtke  
Major Rosemary Haines