

of the answer. Parliament needs to be able to go behind SIRC's reports to ensure that the Review Committee is actually posing the questions Parliament would want to ask and investigating matters on which it would want to have reports. To make this possible, the Committee puts forward the following scheme for consideration.

## **14.5 A Scheme for the Next Five Years**

The Committee believes Parliament should have a continuing role in the review of security and intelligence agencies other than CSIS. Many of them have extensive powers to infringe on the rights and freedoms of Canadians and, as such, must be scrutinized more closely by Parliament. Many Canadians rightfully expect their representatives to protect their interests and to be fully informed about the activities of agencies like CSIS. A committee of Privy Councillors can be no substitute for democratically elected parliamentarians.

The Committee acknowledges there will be resistance in some quarters to establishing a parliamentary committee on security and intelligence. The Committee understands this reluctance. It believes, however, that recent events in Eastern Europe have tipped the balance in favour of greater openness. It is now time for Parliament to play a larger role and to be fully informed.

The Committee examined a number of options available to Parliament. After careful consideration, the Committee is hesitant to make a comprehensive recommendation about how Parliament should review Canada's security and intelligence matters over the long term. As a result, the recommendations that follow are intended as an interim step to cover the next five years and to make the best use of the experience that has been gained to date.

### **RECOMMENDATION 107**

**The Committee recommends that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General establish a permanent sub-committee to deal exclusively with security and intelligence matters.**

The Committee is cognizant of the need to keep certain information secret. To restrict the flow of classified information within Parliament, the Committee believes that the membership of the proposed sub-committee should be kept as small as possible.

The Committee is also cognizant of the fact that the review process places burdens on organizations that are subject to review. It therefore wishes to be particularly careful not to impose on agencies such as CSIS an additional level of review. The Committee has already recommended that SIRC should normally request the Inspector General of CSIS to conduct compliance reviews. The Committee is not recommending that the sub-committee's research staff have a function similar to those of SIRC or the Inspector