

3.2.4 *Political Violence and Terrorism*

Paragraph (c) of the definition of threats to the security of Canada contained in section 2 of the *CSIS Act* is as follows:

- (c) activities within or relating to Canada directed toward or in support of the threat or use of acts of serious violence against persons or property for the purpose of achieving a political objective within Canada or a foreign state.

There are four possible types of activities covered by paragraph (c) of the definition of threats to the security of Canada. These are activities:

- 1) within Canada directed toward the threat or use of acts of serious violence;
- 2) within Canada in support of the threat or use of acts of serious violence;
- 3) relating to Canada directed toward the threat or use of acts of serious violence; or
- 4) relating to Canada in support of the threat or use of acts of serious violence.

A further qualification contained in paragraph (c) is that the acts of serious violence threatened or used must be:

- 1) against persons or property and must be
- 2) for the purpose of achieving a political objective within Canada or a foreign state.

The *Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act* includes politically motivated violence within its definition of security, while the British *Security Service Act, 1989* includes political violence and terrorism within its Service's mandate. The McDonald Commission proposed a definition similar to paragraph (c) in its 1981 report.

The Committee believes that paragraph (c) of the definition of threats to the security of Canada should be retained but amended to clarify the Service's mandate and to make it consistent with the requirements of the *Charter*. There is no doubt in the Committee's mind that there are activities involving political violence and terrorism that should continue to be the object of the Service's attention. In recent years Canada has been both the site and the staging area for such activities. There is, however, the danger that security intelligence work in this area will have a chilling effect on legitimate fund-raising and other forms of non-violent political activity. The aim of the amendments proposed in this area is to ensure that security intelligence activity in relation to political violence is kept within reasonable limits.