

Conclusion — Setting the Agenda

The security and intelligence community plays an important role in Canada. It must perform its functions effectively with the resources at its disposal, but it must do so without infringing rights and freedoms and while being accountable for its actions. In 1984, Parliament made important changes to the security and intelligence community by adopting the *CSIS Act* and the *Security Offences Act*, whose provisions and operation were the object of this comprehensive review.

When the House of Commons established this Committee on June 27, 1989, the members knew that the task they had been assigned was a sensitive, complex one that had to be completed within a tight timeframe. They were also fully aware of the difficulty and importance of their assignment. With these factors in mind, the Committee undertook, as described throughout this Report, a number of inter-related activities, both traditional and innovative in the parliamentary context, to complete its workplan.

The Committee's comprehensive review was carried out during a time of uncertainty and dynamic change. Recently, there have been unexpected developments in the international political realm whose outcomes do not easily lend themselves to prediction. Basic political changes have occurred in many parts of the world, with consequential impacts on alliances, institutions and ideologies. The Post-World War II era, with all it implies, appears to be coming to an end, and a new historical epoch seems to be beginning. Resulting from this era of international political dynamism will be new challenges for Canada's security and intelligence community. These challenges will be fuelled by changing alliances, governments and ideologies.

The security and intelligence community itself has experienced change and uncertainty in recent years. After a painful beginning when CSIS was fashioned out of the RCMP Security Service, the Service was subjected to a mid-course correction in 1987. As a result of the implementation of many of the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Team, the Service is much changed from its beginning. Many of the changes in the Service are still in the process of being implemented. Thus the Service itself is still in flux and adapting to changing internal and external realities.

As a result of its comprehensive review of the provisions and operation of the *CSIS Act* and the *Security Offences Act*, the Committee did not find any egregious improprieties, although it came across a number of issues it believes have to be addressed. The Committee believes that the uniquely Canadian security and intelligence model reflected in the *CSIS Act* and the *Security Offences Act* has worked well and should be preserved. Based on this fundamental conclusion, the Committee's recommendations, if