

4.0 Security

- 4.1 In addition to the oath or affirmation which all federal public service employees take and subscribe to as a condition of their employment, Canadian representatives must be alert to additional security challenges while abroad. It is essential for representatives to understand their personal responsibility for the safeguarding of classified information, for ensuring that they are familiar with the *FAC Manual of Security Instructions*, and for obtaining a briefing prior to departing Canada on any security threats specific to the context of the host country to which they are assigned.
- 4.2 Representatives must be alert to the very real possibility that hostile intelligence agencies may attempt to exploit not only weaknesses in the physical security arrangements of Canadian missions or carelessness on the part of personnel, but also personal behaviour that offends against local laws or customs or broadly accepted standards of conduct. The various issues the Conduct Abroad Code addresses may ultimately cause more serious security and intelligence threats. For that reason the content of the Conduct Abroad Code as a whole must be considered in the context of potential security threats or hostile intelligence operations. It is equally for that reason that the potential consequences of breaching the Conduct Abroad Code can play a preventative as much as a responsive role in ensuring the integrity of Canadian security interests abroad.