
SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

SECURITY

The Security Division managed the Department's involvement in a wide range of international security issues. It is engaged in coordination of Canada's counter-terrorism policies, and the protection of national security interests. This was accomplished in consultation with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other government departments.

The Division directed the Department's physical security and personal safety program at headquarters and abroad, and ensured the protection of government information in accordance with the Government Security Policy. A focus was increased security for electronic data processing, which has been more subject to threat in recent years.

The Division provided around-the-clock monitoring of the security aspects of crises abroad and ensured a coordinated departmental and interdepartmental response. Of particular note in this respect was the successful evacuation of some Canadian staff and their dependents from various Middle East countries following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The Gulf crisis and War led to a major personal safety initiative involving the comprehensive upgrading of security arrangements at a number of Canadian missions, most of them in the Middle East. In addition, approximately 20 Canadian military policemen were dispatched to a number of missions threatened by terrorism and civil disorder.

The Division maintained its customary security clearance procedures and conducted security investigations as required. It provided comprehensive briefings for new employees and for employees proceeding to posts.

INTELLIGENCE

In September 1990, the Foreign Intelligence Bureau was renamed the Foreign Assessments Bureau, to better reflect its role in the Department. The Bureau continued to provide intelligence to decision makers within the Department. In particular, it established the Gulf Assessments Group as a multidisciplinary unit providing the Department with evaluated intelligence on the crisis and subsequent war in the Persian Gulf.

By collecting, analyzing and disseminating classified information, the Bureau ensured that senior managers and policy developers received timely, relevant and assessed data relating to Canada's international role and the intentions of foreign states.

In addition, the Foreign Assessments Bureau has exercised its full mandate to represent the Department in the wider Canadian intelligence community. This included responsibility for drafting most of a large series of assessed intelligence reports which were discussed interdepartmentally and published by the Intelligence Advisory Committee for ministers and senior officials throughout the government.