

*Routine Proceedings*

To counter terrorism CSIS works with other government departments and agencies to deny entry into Canada of known and suspected terrorists. It also maintains liaison with foreign intelligence services and here at home with various communities and groups to identify emerging threats.

In this regard I would like to note that this government is concerned that recent arrivals to Canada not be victimized or manipulated by homeland governments or extremist groups. These recent arrivals have come to a new land to escape such conflict.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union has lifted the lid on a cauldron of ethnic nationalism. Disruption is rife and the waves caused are already lapping at our shores. The disruption of governments in some countries is making the work at CSIS and its allied counterparts around the world ever more difficult.

[*Translation*]

A mixture of ethnic, religious, ideological, economic and territorial pressures has increased instability in many regions around the world. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, continues to be worrisome. The increased availability of nuclear technology and the aspirations of some countries to acquire nuclear bomb-making capability are profoundly disturbing.

And as the nature of power changes, many countries are turning their intelligence services to the business of economic espionage, primarily in the developed Western world.

The Director underlines the Service's concern for the protection of Canada's economic security from disruption due to foreign intelligence services.

[*English*]

A key element of the CSIS mandate is to advise law enforcement agencies of terrorist threats thereby allowing police to take preventive action or arrest perpetrators.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is an essential part of our national security system, being responsible for protective security and for investigating security offences.

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In addition to its responsibilities under the Security Offences Act it also provides security for VIPs, federal properties, including some airports and for foreign embassies and missions here on our soil. CSIS and the RCMP work closely together and it is my role as Solicitor General to work to ensure that the two agencies do not fail in their work to provide effective protection for Canadians and Canadian interests.

For example, CSIS provides security and threat assessments and the RCMP provides protective security for major events which have the potential to attract terrorists and extremists.

By way of conclusion, I want to say that this government in the speech from the throne committed itself to playing an active internationalist role in the global arena. As the speech said, in the light of the radical changes which have occurred in international affairs in the last few years, the government has asked parliamentary committees to review Canada's foreign and defence policies and priorities.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, we will want to follow these reviews closely and analyze the results for possible implications for our national security system.

Clearly, we should be prepared to make necessary adjustments in light of changing national security interests and realignment of foreign and defence priorities.

[*English*]

As I have just discussed, our orientation and national security is influenced considerably by the global security environment. Just as our national security system has undergone adjustment and reorientation over the last 10 years, so must we be ready to adapt and reorient in the coming years. I say this because Canadians are concerned about their sense of security in the world, a world that is ever more influencing our conduct at home in terms of the economy, jobs and protecting the environment and protecting our democratic institutions.

I believe that Canadians want an effective national security system. Therefore our government intends to pay close attention to national security issues but in a manner consistent with our democratic institutions and with our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I have no doubt that hon. members expect no less.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm):** Mr. Speaker, to begin, I would like to thank the Solicitor General of Canada for letting me see and read his statement, his press release and the report he quoted. We were able to become acquainted with it all before he read it and I thank him for that.

That will be the only thanks I extend to the Solicitor General of Canada and to the government in general today, since we were read a statement that I think is completely empty and contains nothing instructive on this area of the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General of Canada.

I think that it raises many more questions than it answers. The Solicitor General acted like his predecessors; that is, he very solemnly read an annual statement. I think that Canadians and