

CHAPTER FOUR

Secondary Mandate – Security Assessments

4.1 Introduction

The Government Security Policy deals essentially with two matters: it establishes criteria for vetting persons for employment with the federal public service or under contract to it; and it provides procedures to be followed in the classification and protection of government assets.

4.1.1 *Vetting Employees and Persons Under Contract*

CSIS has been given the primary responsibility for conducting security assessments. Such assessments are required in occupations where the individual concerned will regularly come in contact with information or materials that are sensitive in the national interest.

Sections 13 through 15 of the *CSIS Act* give the Service authority to conduct security assessments.

Section 13 allows the Service to provide security assessments to federal government departments and to provincial governments. It also authorizes the Service to enter into arrangements with provincial police forces, foreign governments and institutions of such governments with a view to providing them with security assessments.

Section 14 allows the Service to provide certain help to ministers of the Crown regarding their duties or functions under the *Citizenship Act* or the *Immigration Act*. In particular, the Service may, under this section, advise ministers on matters relating to the security of Canada or provide such ministers with pertinent information concerning security issues or criminal activities.

Section 15 empowers the Service to conduct such investigations as are considered necessary to provide either the security assessments identified in section 13 or the advice detailed in section 14.

The Government Security Policy also permits the Department of National Defence and the RCMP to provide security assessments of their own employees.

The Committee understands that the Director of the Service must now personally approve any adverse recommendations with respect to security assessments made by