

MATTERS PRELIMINARY AND FUNDAMENTAL

4 Some issues relating to the subject-matter of the Bill are necessarily preliminary to a consideration of it, and are of such a fundamental nature as to merit consideration throughout this report. They will, accordingly, be dealt with first.

1. The nature of the threat — the need for a security intelligence service

5 This is surely the most basic issue to be addressed in dealing with the subject-matter of Bill C-157. Are there threats to Canada's security? If so, are they of such significance that a distinct security intelligence capability is required?

6 The Committee believes that both questions must be answered in the affirmative. Both the Royal Commission on Security (The "MacKenzie Commission") in 1968, and the Commission of Inquiry Concerning Certain Activities of the RCMP (The "McDonald Commission") in 1981, found that there was, and is, a need to protect the security of Canada from threats both external and internal. The MacKenzie Commission found that the state had a duty to:

protect its secrets from espionage, its information from unauthorized disclosure, its institutions from subversion and its policies from clandestine influence.

The McDonald Commission found that in the protection of the security of Canada there are two basic needs:

first, the need to protect Canadians and their governments against attempts by foreign powers to use coercive or clandestine means to advance their own interests in Canada, and second, the need to protect the essential elements of Canadian democracy against attempts to destroy or subvert them.

The McDonald Commission identified threats to Canada's security as falling into three basic categories: activities of foreign intelligence agencies, political terrorism, and subversion of democratic institutions. It further