

[*Translation*]

Over the years, lives have been lost and injuries suffered. To deal with the problem, a national counter-terrorism plan is in place.

[*English*]

It is consistently being updated to take into account the events of the day. The plan co-ordinates the efforts of all relevant departments and agencies, both federal and provincial. Despite these precautions, our first line of defence remains accurate and timely information about the activities of political terrorists.

A further consequence of international unrest has been the movement of millions of people seeking a safe haven and a more prosperous future. Many of them have come to Canada. A few of those new arrivals have sought to pursue their ancestral disputes by violent means, ignoring our peaceful and democratic political traditions. Canadians can be assured that measures are now in place to uncover those applicants for whom violence is a political option.

Meeting the challenges of the new international environment will test our national security and its institutions as never before. With the passage of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act in 1984, the government created CSIS to provide the government with information on threats to Canada's security. In companion legislation, the Security Offences Act, Parliament affirmed that the RCMP would retain primary responsibility for security related law enforcement and the protection of persons and property. Functions assigned to CSIS and the RCMP are distinct but complementary, and the two agencies have coped well with institutional change since 1984. The effectiveness of these measures was never more evident than during the gulf war last year.

[*Translation*]

CSIS and the RCMP worked hard to ensure that Canadians were spared from terrorist attacks.

[*English*]

I want also to talk about what will not change, and that is our regard for the fundamental rights and freedoms while we are assuring national security. Canadians ex-

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pect their security system to be effective. They also want to be assured that security will not be achieved at the expense of the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals.

Through the CSIS Act, Parliament ensured that both objectives would be met by the legislative and institutional arrangements it put in place. Parliament provided that CSIS could use its extraordinary powers of investigation only to the extent strictly necessary to perform its duties. The most intrusive powers could be used only after they have been approved by the Solicitor General and by the Federal Court of Canada.

Their use is also subject to review by the Inspector General of CSIS and by the Security Intelligence Review Committee. Control and accountability arrangements for CSIS include ministerial direction on a wide range of activities. These cover the services annual priorities, the operational methods, co-operative arrangements with domestic and foreign agencies and reporting requirements. Ministerial directions and approved operational policies are in place to ensure that investigations are pursued with due regard for the rights of individuals under investigation.

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CSIS and the RCMP recognize and understand the central role of such measures in safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms in Canadian society. This is because they share the essential values, principles and convictions of a nation united in respect for law, the rights of individuals and the collective well-being of all.

A few months ago the Prime Minister pointed out that there is no map to help chart the course of world peace in these changing times.

[*Translation*]

We have only our values, he said, and the hard-earned lessons of the past to go on.

[*English*]

I believe that Canada's national security system, so recently conceived and developed, reflects and embodies this nation's values and experiences in pursuit of the twin goals of security and liberty. I am confident that Canadians can continue to enjoy a degree of security and liberty that is and will remain the envy of the world.