

inserted into the *Criminal Code*, the *Official Secrets Act*, and related legislation.

The phrase “detrimental to the interests of Canada” is undefined in the *CSIS Act* and lacking in precise meaning. What is meant by “detrimental” — is it meant to be interpreted in an economic, political, geographical or defence context? The present version of paragraph (a) does not provide an answer. Similarly, what is meant by the “interests of Canada”? Such vague terminology contributes to an overly broad mandate in this area and may lead to activities by the Service potentially in violation of rights and freedoms guaranteed by the *Charter*.

SIRC offered the following definition in its brief to the Committee:

“detrimental to the interests of Canada” means activities which are foreign directed, are surreptitious or deceptive, and are directed toward:

- a) diminishing the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Canada;
- b) weakening Canada’s military defences;
- c) harming Canada’s international relations with any nation or organization;
- d) seriously endangering the lives, health or safety of Canadians;
- e) obtaining, illegally, or without proper authorization, any information or thing classified in the national interest by the Government of Canada; and,
- f) the bribery, coercion, or corruption of Canadians in respect of activities falling within paragraphs a), b), c), d) or e).

Further elements of a definition may be found in the September 1989 Ministerial Direction on national requirements for security intelligence. The following “national interest areas” are set out:

- a) **Public Safety:** the ability of people to engage in ordinary social activity without fear of harm;
- b) **Integrity of the Democratic Process:** the functioning of those institutions, rights and freedoms fundamental to the political well-being of a democratic society;