

beginning of the Committee's work there was much reticence within the security and intelligence community about parliamentary review. Through test and trial, both parliamentarians and the security and intelligence community appear to have come a long way. There is still a long way to go, however, to reach the point of convergence on the continuum.

Both sides will have to undertake confidence-building measures for any future parliamentary review. Parliament will have to establish clearly how it intends to ensure that the security and intelligence community is accountable to it and to Canadians. Parliament will have to engage permanent staff who are knowledgeable about security and intelligence issues and experienced in working with parliamentary institutions, ensure that this staff is security-cleared, and make provisions for it to operate in secure premises. On the security and intelligence community's side, it will have to learn to be more forthcoming in providing Parliament with access to documents and personnel. The Committee believes strongly, after a year of living with the uncertainties and suspicions felt on both sides of the review process, that such undertakings on both sides will lead to better accountability to Parliament and to a more effective security and intelligence community.

## **1.7 Are CSIS and Security Intelligence Still Needed?**

Since the end of the World War II, the main preoccupation of Canadian security intelligence has been the threat and fact of espionage in Canada by the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact governments. The tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe in recent years are already having an impact on defence and arms control policies.

The threshold question for the Committee was whether the end of the Cold War means the end of a need for security intelligence in Canada and, in particular, whether there is any continuing need for CSIS.

The Committee has concluded that there still is a need for security intelligence and, subject to some modifications, for the special intrusive powers the *CSIS Act* gives CSIS. However, the dramatic events of the past few years in Eastern Europe suggest that a new creativity in security intelligence policy is required.

The Committee received a briefing on the current nature of threats to the security of Canada and some of the measures undertaken by the Service. In preparation for this briefing by the Service, the Committee held an information session with its staff.

The Committee has concluded that terrorism and espionage continue to threaten Canada and the interests of Canadians. Foreign governments still engage in covert intelligence activities against Canada and maintain a capacity in the area and an interest in doing so. There are current cases of foreign governments covertly intervening in Canadian public affairs. International terrorism remains a threat to world order; from time to time Canada is a base for activities in support of terrorism in other countries.