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1 Ottawa, Ontario / Ottawa (Ontario) 2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. / L'audience reprend le 3 mardi 13 septembre 2005 à 10 h 4 THE REGISTRAR: Please be seated. 5 Veuillez vous asseoir. 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Ms McIsaac? MS McISAAC: Thank you, sir. 8 9 SUBMISSIONS 10 MS McISAAC: As I indicated to you 11 yesterday, my submissions today will focus on the period of time, again, that Mr. Arar was in New 12 13 York, and particularly with respect to the 14 perspective of CSIS and the Department of Foreign Affairs, and then the actions of Canadian 15 16 officials during the period of time that Mr. Arar 17 was incarcerated in Syria. 18 Firstly, with respect to CSIS, I think it's probably easier if I deal with New York 19 20 from a CSIS perspective and then from a Foreign Affairs perspective. 21 2.2 A couple of background things are 23 very important for all of us to keep in mind, and 24 the first one is that CSIS does not investigate 25 crimes.

1 A couple of times during the 2 course of the hearing, there have been questions posited to witnesses by various parties which seem 3 to misapprehend that the security intelligence 4 service has some kind of enforcement powers. 5 Ιt does not. 6 7 It has the power to investigate individuals, to collect intelligence, it has the 8 9 power to obtain warrants for wiretaps and other kinds of searches from the Federal Court, but it 10 doesn't collect evidence and it has no enforcement 11 12 powers. It collects intelligence. 13 However, when it, during the course of the investigation, a threat to the 14 security of Canada, concludes that there is 15 criminal activity, or activity that has reached 16 17 the stage where they believe it is appropriate and necessary to pass the matter on to the RCMP for a 18 criminal investigation, then, of course, they must 19 20 do so. Clearly, individuals who engage in 21 22 terrorist activity or with the passage of our anti-terrorism legislation, a broader range of 23 24 activities that would be more generally considered support of terrorism have also become clearly 25

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1 criminal activity. And it's in that context that 2 CSIS will and must pass information to the RCMP. I want to underline a point, 3 though, that Mr. Fothergill made yesterday. It's 4 not as if they sort of pass over the file and say, 5 "Here it is, it's yours," and wash their hands of 6 7 it. What CSIS does is it provides 8 9 information to the RCMP which CSIS believes is sufficient to provide the basis for the 10 11 commencement of a criminal investigation, and we heard during the contextual evidence last year the 12 mechanisms of advisory letters and disclosure 13 letters for either providing information that's 14 15 intended to be used in court proceedings, such as 16 the basis for obtaining a warrant, as opposed to 17 information which is merely provided for the 18 purposes of information. I think we have to appreciate that 19 20 there's always going to be some degree of overlap between the activities of the security service and 21 2.2 the activities of the RCMP, and that's simply because the kinds of activities that are a threat 23 24 to our national security by and large are also 25 crimes.

But it's important to recognize, 1 2 and again, Mr. Fothergill made this point yesterday, that just because CSIS provides 3 information to the RCMP, in the belief that that 4 information forms the basis for a viable criminal 5 investigation which should or could result in a 6 7 prosecution, does not mean the RCMP has to take it. 8 The RCMP does its own independent 9 evaluation of the information and determines that, 10 11 from its point of view, yes, indeed, a viable investigation should and could be undertaken here. 12 13 Throughout the investigation, like 14 any other investigation, the RCMP will continually evaluate the progress of the investigation, 15 determine where it's at, and make a decision as to 16 17 whether that investigation continues to be viable. Now, one of the important things 18 we have to keep in mind here, to the extent that 19 20 the RCMP may have been -- because of the nature of what happened on September the 11th, 2001 --21 22 unprepared for the vast influx of tips and activity of a criminal nature that had to be 23 24 investigated, requests from the American partners and others with respect to information, with this 25

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fear that there was a second wave of attacks 1 2 possible, there seems to have been a suggestion occasionally that somehow the RCMP weren't quite 3 ready for the investigation. 4 I'm not quite sure what to make of 5 that because I can't imagine them saying, "Oh, 6 7 sorry, we're not quite ready for this investigation. Could you wait six, eight months 8 9 while we train some people, pull a team together, and then we'll start investigating?" That's not a 10 viable solution. 11 The viable solution is the 12 13 solution that the RCMP undertook, and that 14 solution was to pull together a group of seasoned, major crime investigators with the kinds of 15 expertise required to investigate the possible 16 17 criminal activity that had been identified to them by CSIS. 18 Now, with respect to CSIS 19 20 involvement, the evidence shows, I think it was Mr. Hooper's evidence, that Mr. Arar's name was 21 22 known to CSIS prior to his incarceration in New York, but essentially CSIS played no role and had 23 24 no prior knowledge of the fact that Mr. Arar was 25 returning to Canada or would be arrested upon his

arrival in New York. 1 We have reviewed the CSIS evidence 2 as well as a discussion of the CSIS involvement in 3 Chapter 2 of our submissions, which reviews the 4 evidence, and Chapter 3, which is our discussion 5 of the issues from the CSIS point of view; and in 6 7 my submission, that evidence shows the following: Firstly, it is clear that CSIS was 8 9 unaware that Mr. Arar would be arrested when he transitted through New York. 10 Secondly, in my submission, the 11 evidence is clear that CSIS did not play any role 12 in the decisions of the U.S. authorities with 13 respect to Mr. Arar. CSIS only learned of 14 Mr. Arar's detention through its contacts at 15 Foreign Affairs and became aware of the detention 16 17 at the time that Foreign Affairs was already in the process of tracking Mr. Arar down and 18 attempting to obtain consular access. 19 20 What CSIS did do, because they

21 couldn't understand what was going on, they
22 undertook inquiries in an attempt to find out why
23 it was that Mr. Arar had been arrested in New
24 York, and the evidence shows that they did not
25 receive any information about his situation prior

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to his actual deportation from New York. 1 2 The evidence of CSIS was that they were surprised to learn that Mr. Arar had been 3 deported to Syria because they, like everyone 4 else, had fully expected that he would be deported 5 to Canada, if not returned to Zurich, or, more 6 7 likely, even retained in U.S. custody while an investigation was completed, and then possibly 8 9 charges laid or some type of deportation proceeding taken place at that time. 10 11 And those findings are essentially -- or those submissions, excuse me, 12 13 are essentially the same as the findings of the 14 Security Intelligence Review Committee which, as you know, has undertaken an investigation of 15 CSIS's involvement in Mr. Arar's detention and 16 17 subsequent -- pardon me, detention in New York and subsequent deportation as well as his 18 incarceration in Syria. 19

I think it's important to go back to, again, to this question of why would people think that Mr. Arar would be deported in the way he was to Syria; and Mr. Fothergill mentioned this yesterday, but I would take you back to the evidence of Mr. Yale-Loehr, one of the

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1 Commission's experts, and in particular his report with respect to U.S. immigration law, which is to 2 be found in Exhibit P-120 at tab 4, and his 3 evidence at page 5,560 of the transcript, where he 4 reaches the conclusion, based on the material 5 that's available to him, that Mr. Arar was likely 6 deported pursuant to a provision of the 7 Immigration and Naturalization Act, section 8 9 235(c), which is a provision allowing for an expedited removal for a variety of 10 11 security-related offenses.

12 And Mr. Yale-Loehr, an expert in 13 U.S. immigration law, testified that Mr. Arar's 14 case was the first section 235(c) procedure and 15 removal order that he had seen.

16 So this was a very unusual 17 process, and there is no reason, in my submission, 18 why CSIS ought to have had any reason to believe 19 that this process would be used with respect to 20 Mr. Arar.

21 Now, with respect to Foreign
22 Affairs and the period of time that Foreign
23 Affairs was involved with Mr. Arar in New York, my
24 understanding of the allegation is essentially:
25 He should have known that he was going to go to

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1 Syria.

2 And for the reasons I have just stated, that we discussed yesterday with respect 3 to the RCMP, in my submission it is unreasonable 4 to say that Foreign Affairs officials should have 5 known that Mr. Arar would be sent to Syria. 6 Thev 7 couldn't be aware of this process which had never occurred before. 8 The alternative, as I understand 9 it, allegation is, well, if you didn't actually 10 11 know it was going to happen, you should have known, and you turned a blind eye or you were 12 13 incompetent. You didn't read the signals 14 properly. 15 And in my submission, again, that's an unfair characterization of what happened 16 17 and it really attributes to Foreign Affairs officials, both in New York and in Ottawa, 18 clairvoyance to understand what was going to 19 20 happen. We have set out for you, sir, in 21 22 our discussion of the issues, what I hope is a helpful review of the events in New York. It's at 23 24 Chapter 7 and it is to be found at page 4 of the discussion of the issues. 25

1 Now, it's important to understand 2 that, yes, a threat to send Mr. Arar to Syria appears to have been made, but the evidence, as I 3 understand it, with respect to that threat, is as 4 follows: 5 The threat was made by an 6 7 immigration official to Mr. Arar while he was still at the airport. The evidence, as I 8 9 understand it, is that that threat was then reported in Ottawa, and Mr. Arar himself 10 11 subsequently raised it with Ms Girvan when she had 12 her meeting with him at the Metropolitan Detention 13 Center. But what's important to understand 14 15 is that Ms Girvan's assessment of that threat was, 16 he had started out at the airport, where an 17 expedited immigration procedure might be expected. That's where the threat was made. He had 18 subsequently been moved to the Metropolitan 19 20 Detention Center. He was then, I think as Ms 21 Girvan put it, in the system, and it was 22 reasonable, in my submission, for her to expect that Mr. Arar would continue to be "in the system" 23 24 and that he would be treated to some sort of immigration hearing, he may be detained, there may 25

1 be an investigation, but that he was not going 2 anywhere in any great hurry. And let's look at the sequence of 3 4 events. Firstly, Foreign Affairs first 5 became aware that Mr. Arar was missing on Sunday, 6 7 September the 29th. Now, at that point, they're not certain who he is or why he might be missing. 8 9 But on Monday morning, they undertake inquiries to figure out where he might be. That's September 10 11 the 30th. They begin looking for him. And despite a lack of cooperation from the U.S. 12 13 authorities, they continue in their efforts and they manage to locate him on Wednesday, and I note 14 there's a typographical error. Wednesday would be 15 October 2nd, not October 1st. 16 17 Now, yes, during the course of these inquiries, somebody in Immigration, I 18 believe, remarks that this is big, and suggests 19 20 that perhaps the Ambassador or somebody should contact the Department of Justice. But remember, 21 22 this is when they're still trying to find him. 23 They then find him. He's at the Metropolitan Detention Center, and Ms Girvan 24 actually manages to have a consular visit with 25

1 Mr. Arar.

In the meantime, Ms Collins and 2 Mr. Pardy, back in Ottawa, were considering the 3 question of whether a diplomatic note of some kind 4 would be necessary, and presumably would have 5 carried on with that if Mr. Arar had not been 6 7 found. But he's now been found, and we've got our consular access, and the evidence of Ms Girvan, 8 9 supported by Mr. Pardy, was essentially that once they had that consular access, the priority was to 10 11 carry on with ensuring that Mr. Arar had contact with a lawyer and was able to deal with his 12 13 present situation.

The priority was not starting to complain to the American authorities because they had not immediately provided Mr. Arar with the consular access that he was entitled to.

So they find him on Wednesday, October 2nd. On Thursday, October 3rd, Ms Girvan has a consular visit with Mr. Arar, and this is where she learns what the alleged charges are against him. He shows her the document that he's been provided.

She immediately contacts -ensures that the family is aware of where he is,

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that she's been to see him, and the allegations 1 that have been made against him, and efforts are 2 immediately put in place to ensure that Ms Oummih 3 is retained as his lawyer, the lawyer identified 4 by the family -- I think actually through a family 5 friend, and Ms Girvan sends a fax to the 6 7 Metropolitan Detention Center requesting that Ms Oummih be allowed to visit Mr. Arar, and, in 8 9 fact, two days later, on Saturday, October the 5th, Ms Oummih does manage to have a visit 10 11 with Mr. Arar. So as of Saturday, October 12 13 the 5th, Mr. Arar has had a consular are visit and he's met with his lawyer. The American 14

15 authorities know that he's a Canadian, know that 16 the Canadian consular services are on the case, if 17 I can put it that way, and they know that he has 18 retained a lawyer to assist him with his 19 immigration proceedings, whatever they might be. 20 Now, at this point, everything

21 seems to go off track, and unfortunately, we've 22 not yet heard from Mr. Arar, and I presume we're 23 not going to hear from Ms Oummih, so we don't 24 really know what happened. But as best we can 25 tell from the evidence that is on the record,

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Ms Oummih had some kind of contact with 1 immigration officials, either over the weekend or 2 on the Monday morning, that would be October 3 the 7th, and she advised Ms Girvan that she had 4 met with Mr. Arar and that there was to be some 5 kind of interview with the District Director of 6 7 the Immigration and Naturalization Service at 7 p.m. that evening. So, so far, everything seems 8 9 to be in hand, and the case is in the hands of Ms Oummih. 10 11 In the meantime, of course, Ms Girvan is actually following up in her attempts 12

13 to try to arrange for Mr. Arar to have a telephone 14 call with his wife, and she is dealing both with 15 the Metropolitan Detention Center and with Ottawa 16 headquarters.

Now, we don't really know what happened next, but it would appear that either the interview never took place, it was changed, or something happened. Ms Oummih was misled. We don't know what happened.

THE COMMISSIONER: There was a call later on from the CRC, was it, that group that suggested that the meeting had actually taken place on the Sunday?

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1 MS McISAAC: That's correct. Ιt 2 would appear possible that Ms Oummih thought it was to be Monday night and, in fact, it was Sunday 3 night. 4 THE COMMISSIONER: She had been 5 left a phone mail message on the Sunday and may 6 7 have picked it up Monday and assumed somebody might have said there was a meeting tonight. 8 She 9 assumed it was Monday? I don't know. MS McISAAC: It's all very 10 11 confusing as to what exactly happened. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: It did appear 13 that there was some sort of meeting on the Sunday night. Is that an overstatement? 14 15 MS McISAAC: I don't think we know that for sure, sir. I mean, we have suggestions 16 17 that there was some kind of meeting on the Sunday night, but I don't think there's clear evidence on 18 that point. 19 20 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. Okay. MS McISAAC: And so it's not clear 21 to me whether it didn't occur or whether it 22 occurred early and they didn't give her an 23 24 opportunity to be at it. In any event, this is the Monday, 25

and sometime that night, actually early the next 1 2 morning, between 3 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the morning of Tuesday, October 8th, without Girvan being 3 aware of it, without Mr. Arar's lawyer being aware 4 of it, without presumably anybody being aware of 5 it, Mr. Arar is put on a jet airplane, privately 6 7 chartered, we understand, a fairly luxurious aircraft, from what he says, and flown out of the 8 9 country. Now, Mr. Pardy, sir, described 10 11 that action as duplicitous, and I think, guite frankly, we would all have to agree. To hold a 12 13 hearing on a Sunday night without one's lawyer 14 present, knowing that a lawyer has been retained, to fly somebody out of the country between 3 a.m. 15 and 4 a.m. in the morning, secretly, is, at the 16 17 very least, duplicitous. But how, why, would Foreign 18 Affairs officials, Mr. Pardy, Ms Collins, 19 20 Ms Girvan -- indeed anyone -- expect that to happen? How could anyone have had the foresight 21 22 to expect that to happen? In my submission, the behaviour in 23

24 these circumstances is so strange and so
25 unprecedented that it would be unfair in the

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1 extreme, using the hindsight we now have today, to suggest that Ms Girvan, Ms Collins, Mr. Pardy, or 2 indeed anyone else, could have expected this to 3 4 happen. So in my submission, there was not 5 only not any collaboration or concurrence in what 6 7 happened to Mr. Arar, there was no wilful blindness, there was no negligence, there was no 8 9 failure to read the signals. They did everything in their 10 11 power. They did everything reasonable to ensure

12 that Mr. Arar received the consular services that he was entitled to, and they genuinely thought 13 that he had in hand a lawyer, an appropriate 14 15 representation, to deal with whatever the 16 immigration proceeding was, and indeed, had the 17 immigration proceeding taken place, as it ought to have, in a sensible, fair manner, Ms Oummih 18 presumably could have attended, and things might 19 20 have been quite different than they turned out.

21 It's also important just to make 22 the point as well that no Canadian official, 23 whether it be Ms Girvan, Ms Collins, or Mr. Pardy, 24 actually received a direct communication from any 25 American official suggesting that Mr. Arar would

be sent to Syria. 1 2 My understanding of the evidence is that the information or the threat that 3 Mr. Arar could be sent to Syria was provided at 4 the airport to him, and that the threat was then a 5 secondhand one to the officials at Foreign 6 7 Affairs. Now, we reach the period of time 8 9 when Mr. Arar is in Damascus, Syria, and of course you've heard evidence as to the period of time 10 11 when nobody was quite sure where Mr. Arar was. There was a belief he might be in Syria. 12 The 13 Syrians did not admit to having him. There was a belief he might be in Jordan. And Foreign Affairs 14 immediately, through our embassies in both Amman, 15 Jordan, and Damascus, Syria, undertook inquiries 16 17 as soon as they realized that he was not in New York to see if they could track him down. 18 Now, let's not forget the 19 20 background to what is happening here. We're in a situation where two 21 22 other individuals, we now know, had been incarcerated in Syria. 23 24 Mr. El Maati had been in Syria. The Syrians never acknowledged -- in fact, I don't 25

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think anybody realized he had been there until he 1 2 had left, and he told the consular officials in Egypt that he had been in Syria. 3 We are pretty sure Mr. Almalki was 4 in Syria, but the Syrians wouldn't even 5 acknowledge that they had Mr. Almalki. 6 7 So, obviously, as Mr. Pardy indicated in his evidence, if Mr. Arar was in 8 9 Syria, they were quite concerned, because their fear was that he too would remain in some limbo 10 11 for some considerable period of time and that no consular access would be granted. 12 13 But once they realized that he was 14 actually in Syria, as a result of the Syrians, for the first time, acknowledging his presence to 15 Ambassador Pillarella, they made immediate efforts 16 17 to obtain a consular visit. Now, can you fault the Ambassador, 18 Mr. Pardy, Mr. Martel for approaching that 19 20 consular visit very carefully and being very cautious? 21 2.2 THE COMMISSIONER: Just before we 23 get to the first visit. What does the Government suggest I should find about where Mr. Arar -- what 24 his whereabouts were during the period from 25

October the 9th until the Syrians acknowledge that 1 2 he was in Syria? Well, I mean, once 3 MS MCISAAC: again, it's a bit difficult, but there's no reason 4 to disbelieve, I would have thought, Mr. Arar's 5 assertion, that he was in Syria all of that time. 6 7 But I think the point is that up until the first visit, nobody was sure where he was. Okay? 8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: But I'm just, 10 for purposes of my report, because it seems to me, 11 if I conclude that, and it's not just Mr. Arar, there's other circumstances that would support 12 13 that conclusion. 14 MS MCISAAC: Yes. That then THE COMMISSIONER: 15 triggers a concern, because of the Syrians' record 16 17 about holding people incommunicado, about what's the next step in my conclusions that I make? 18 Should that have been a red flag, 19 20 that the reason that they didn't acknowledge it was because they were following their normal 21 22 pattern of interrogating with abusive treatment? MS McISAAC: You have to be 23 24 careful there, sir, quite frankly. Now, looking 25 back on it, with all that we know today, I believe

1 that there's no reason to doubt that Mr. Arar was 2 in Syria for that entire period of time; and I acknowledge that at the first visit, Mr. Arar 3 indicated that he had been in Syria the entire 4 period of time. 5 Now, the difficulty is that there 6 7 was also information suggesting that he had, in fact, been in Jordan longer than that. 8 The 9 Syrians denied having him. And I think it was fair for the Department of Foreign Affairs not to 10 11 leap to any conclusions as to where Mr. Arar had been during that period of time. I think it was 12 13 open to them and appropriate for them to continue to be concerned. 14 15 But I think that there's also no 16 question that they operated on the basis that 17 there was a possibility, indeed probably more than a possibility, that he had been in Syria, and 18 Mr. Pardy's evidence, as I recall, is that it was 19 20 his working assumption that Mr. Arar had been in Syria the entire time, and it was his working 21 22 assumption that Mr. Arar might well have been 23 subject to ill treatment, indeed torture, during 24 that period of time that he was in Syria. So they 25 approached it, in my submission --

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly 2 Mr. Pardy did. MS McISAAC: Yes -- on the 3 assumption that that was a possibility, and quite 4 frankly, in my submission, that was Ambassador 5 Pillarella's evidence too. The possibility that 6 7 Mr. Arar had been incarcerated in Syria and subjected to torture while the Syrians were not 8 9 acknowledging his presence was something, I think if you look at the evidence, Ambassador Pillarella 10 11 acknowledged as well. 12 The question was, once they got in 13 to see him, what did they see and what did they do? What could they do is perhaps even more 14 15 important. 16 And I want to stop for just a 17 moment to remind us -- I know that we've been over this ad nauseam, but sometimes I'm not sure that 18 people are willing to put the emphasis on the fact 19 20 that Mr. Arar was a dual citizen, that is required, the emphasis on that, that is necessary. 21 2.2 You heard a lot of evidence from 23 experts, particularly Professor Forcese and his 24 colleague, about the nature of dual citizenship, about the fact there is no mechanism which 25

1 requires a country such as Syria to recognize a second citizenship. They look at somebody like 2 Mr. Arar as a Syrian citizen, and they're going to 3 treat him as a Syrian citizen, and quite frankly, 4 even if Mr. Arar were not a Syrian citizen, he 5 were a citizen of some other country, as well as 6 7 being a Canadian citizen, there's no reason to believe that countries that have dictatorial 8 9 regimes are necessarily going to fall all over themselves to engage in their consular 10 11 obligations, or to allow Canada necessarily to undertake its consular visits. 12 13 But the consular authorities, 14 Mr. Pardy, Mr. Pillarella as the Ambassador, Mr. Martel, were conscious of this difficulty and 15 16 were surprised and relieved, I dare say, that they 17 were going to have an opportunity to have their first consular visit with Mr. Arar. 18 Mr. Livermore -- once they had the 19 20 first consular visit -- no, before I go to that, I 21 want to make another point, too, is that the 22 assumption, that because Syria tortures people, 23 Mr. Arar must have been tortured, and, please, I'm 24 putting myself -- I'm not talking about today. I'm not talking about Mr. Arar today. We've heard 25

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1 Mr. Arar's story. I'm talking about, what were 2 people thinking at the time that Mr. Arar was in Syria back in October and November of 2002? 3 What were they thinking? What were they entitled to 4 think? Were they thinking things that were 5 reasonable in the circumstances that they found 6 7 themselves at the time? There were a number of factors, in 8 my submission, that went into their assessment of 9 the situation. 10 11 Mr. Livermore acknowledged the 12 general reputation of Syria. But he testified 13 that each case should be treated as unique and had to be dealt with on its own merits. And he said 14 15 you can't necessarily jump from the general reputation to specific conclusions of ill 16 17 treatment. He actually gave examples of when 18 he was the consular officer in Chile at a time 19 20 when Chile had a very poor international reputation, was no doubt engaged in torture and 21 2.2 abuse of individuals who are incarcerated, and he 23 was aware of situations where that simply wasn't 24 the case. So it's not always the case that somebody is going to be tortured. 25

But as I understood the evidence, 1 2 they all approached the incarceration of Mr. Arar and the first consular visit on the assumption 3 that he might well have been mistreated in some 4 manner, and that's their working assumption. 5 And I think again that was Mr. Pardy's term, the 6 7 working assumption was that Mr. Arar might well have been mistreated. 8 9 They all had it in the front of their minds, that possibility. And, in fact, for 10 11 the Ambassador -- quite frankly, I think the Ambassador has got, I am going to put it in the 12 13 vernacular, a "bum rap" from the media. The Ambassador's evidence was --14 and the reference to his evidence is to be found 15 at page 6 in our submissions, Chapter 6 of our 16 17 submission. He said, of course it went through his mind that Mr. Arar might be handled roughly or 18 that his detention conditions were bad, and he 19 20 said that's precisely why he fought so hard for access to Mr. Arar as quickly as possible in order 21 22 to verify that Mr. Arar was safe. Mr. Pardy, exactly the same thing, 23 24 but he cautioned against jumping to conclusions,

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particularly public conclusions. He said, "You

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knew that conditions in prison were quite 1 2 difficult. I mean, that was the assumption you made. And that's what lent urgency to your work. 3 Making public accusations about these conditions 4 was what concerned me more because those were 5 issues that could delay our consular access." 6 7 The approach of all of them, in my submission, was: "We've got to get in to see 8 9 Mr. Arar. Let's take advantage of this unique and unprecedented opportunity. The Syrians have 10 11 acknowledged they have him, and they're willing to allow us to get in to see him." 12 13 Now, the first consular visit --14 but before we go to the first consular visit, I would commend to you the evidence of Mr. Burns, 15 another expert who testified, and particularly his 16 17 evidence at page 5955 through 5957. There is a --I quess it's a difference in approach. 18 He was of the view, in that 19 20 evidence, that notwithstanding what a standard for a consular visit ought to be, i.e., unfettered 21 22 access, private access, an opportunity to have a discussion with the individual who is 23 24 incarcerated -- in many cases that is not

25 realistic. It's ideal. It would be what we would

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want to have. But we're always at the mercy of 1 2 the country that is holding the detainee. And it's one thing to be dealing 3 with the Brits, I think he suggested. It's one 4 thing to be trying to get consular access to 5 somebody incarcerated in Liverpool. It's quite a 6 7 different matter when you're trying to get access to somebody who is incarcerated in a country like 8 9 Syria. 10 In any event, as soon as contact 11 was made and the Syrians were willing to acknowledge that they had Mr. Arar in their -- I 12 13 don't want to use "possession" -- they had incarcerated him, they did allow for a consular 14 15 visit. 16 And it's interesting, if we go 17 back to Mr. Martel's evidence about this consular visit. It's clear that this was something guite 18 new for the Syrians officials, the Syrian Military 19 20 Intelligence officials. 21 There was this elaborate process. 22 You didn't just walk up to the prison, knock on the door, show his credentials, and go into a 23 24 room. There was a rather unusual and 25

1 elaborate protocol. This protocol involved him transferring between vehicles. He went to a place 2 where he was met. He was moved to another 3 vehicle. He was driven to the facility where he 4 was going to meet Mr. Arar. He had to meet with 5 the Syrian officials for a while. Then Mr. Arar 6 7 is brought in. The whole thing is very elaborate, 8 9 almost sinister, if you will, and very strange. Nevertheless, in my submission, 10 11 that indicates both the seriousness with which the 12 Syrians were taking this consular visit and the

uniqueness of this access. It wasn't something they were used to. And Mr. Martel, I think, actually testified to the fact that he felt the Syrian officials were uneasy and awkward with the whole situation.

But he was able to meet with Mr. Arar. He was able to speak with him. They met for approximately 30 minutes.

There were clearly some significant restraints. Obviously everybody was feeling their way, including Mr. Martel. And as I understood his evidence, it was that he didn't want to do anything to jeopardize that visit or

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1 future visits.

2 He was able to shake Mr. Arar's hand, get close enough to him to shake his hand. 3 He was able to observe his physical condition, 4 albeit to some extent from a distance after they 5 had finished shaking hands. But the room wasn't 6 7 all that big. It was about 5 metres by 5 metres, which would be slightly over -- I think about 15 8 9 feet by 15 feet. A little bit more. 10 So relatively speaking, it's not 11 as if they were miles and miles away. 12 So Mr. Martel did have an 13 opportunity to observe. He noted that Mr. Arar 14 seemed resigned and submissive. Well, that's to be expected under any circumstances, I would have 15 16 thought. The poor man has been spirited away from 17 the United States in the middle of the night, you know, flown to Syria, then to Jordan, then back to 18 Syria in a car, as I understand his story, and 19 20 held presumably without any contact other than with his gaolers for the period of time, which I 21 22 gather by now is about 10 or more days. Nevertheless, Martel notices that 23 24 Mr. Arar seems to be physically okay. He doesn't show any obvious signs of physical abuse. 25 He's

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aware of the constraints, the fact that Mr. Arar 1 2 is obviously not free to speak freely, that Mr. Martel's constrained in the questions that he 3 can ask Mr. Arar; and the evidence is that, upon 4 reviewing the consular report of what Mr. Martel 5 was able to view and observe during that visit, 6 7 the immediate response of consular affairs in Ottawa, as well as Mr. Martel and the Ambassador, 8 9 was to push for a second consular visit. And Mr. Pardy, with all his 10 11 experience in consular affairs, reported -- or testified to you that Mr. Martel's first visit 12 with Mr. Arar couldn't be characterized as 13 14 anything other than good news. 15 They had seen Mr. Arar. They had seen a man who was not obviously suffering from 16 17 physical abuse. And they were in a situation where they believed they were going to get more 18 consular visits. This was a real breakthrough, 19 20 because they had never gotten in to see anyone In fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 21 before. 22 had never even acknowledged having Mr. Almalki in 23 their custody. 24 And as Mr. Pardy testified, this

25 gave Foreign Affairs a benchmark against which to

measure Mr. Arar's well-being, and they could 1 2 refer back to it in subsequent visits. They got a follow-up visit. 3 But before we get to that, Mr. Martel's evidence was 4 that when he spoke to Mr. Arar during that first 5 visit, there was nothing that led him to believe 6 7 that Mr. Arar had been subject to torture. Now, I'm not commenting on whether 8 9 Mr. Arar was subject to torture or not. He has now come back to Canada and he has given us a 10 11 credible story that he was tortured, and Mr. Martel has said that he has no reason to 12 believe -- disbelieve Mr. Arar. 13 14 What I'm talking to you about is the very issue we discussed yesterday, and that is 15 judging the actions of Canadian officials based on 16 17 what they knew at the time, what they reasonably assumed at the time, and what they were reasonably 18 able to achieve at the time. 19 20 And in my submission, at the end of the first visit, Canadian officials were of the 21 22 view that Mr. Arar was, at least at that point, reasonably okay. 23 24 And I say that very advisedly, because "reasonably okay," having been 25

incarcerated for a period of from ten days to two 1 2 weeks in a Syrian prison is a very relative term, but they were in to see him, they had a promise of 3 future access, and he seemed to be "relatively 4 okay." 5 So their emphasis from there on in 6 7 was to continue the consular visits, to continue to obtain as much information as they could, and 8 to continue to monitor, as best they could in the 9 constrained circumstances, Mr. Arar's well-being. 10 11 Now, here's where the judgment 12 comes in, sir: Mr. Martel's assessment, and I 13 believe that assessment was concurred in certainly 14 by the Ambassador and by Mr. Pardy as well, is to have asked at that point, to have pushed for an 15 16 independent meeting, was just too risky. 17 We can look back now, and I 18 suppose we can do this: We can say, well, he should have tried. He should have asked. Right? 19 And if they had asked and the 20 21 Syrians had said, "Oh, we don't want to be 2.2 involved in this. Thank you very much. You've had your consular visit. That's it." That would 23 24 have been a mistake. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: They never

asked throughout the whole time. 1 2 MS MCISAAC: They didn't, sir. They made the judgment --3 THE COMMISSIONER: 4 Even at any point of this, despite the Ambassador's good 5 relationship with General Khalil, they couldn't 6 7 even ask, that that would be fatal. MS McISAAC: That was their 8 9 judgement. They had asked -- and I was going to come to this -- they had asked for an opportunity 10 11 for, at the very least, a phone call with Ms Mazigh, they had asked for a second consular 12 13 officer, but at each stage they were denied. The ability to have a second 14 consular officer attend. They were denied the 15 ability to arrange for a picture, and I was going 16 to deal with my friend's comments regarding a 17 picture. They were denied the ability to arrange 18 for any telephone calls or anything of that 19 20 nature. 21 Now, we can sit here today and we 22 can say they were too cautious. But at the time, in my submission, we had experienced individuals, 23

we had Mr. Pardy, an experienced consular
official -- in fact, somebody who has had more

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experience than any of us will ever have, more 1 2 knowledge, more intuition about these things, and Mr. Pardy concurred in the assessment that it was 3 better to take what they could get, at least for 4 that first period of time, and to not push the 5 envelope too far lest they absolutely lose any 6 7 ability to see Mr. Arar. And in my submission, that is --8 9 we can say, "I would have made a different choice, " you might have made a different choice, 10 11 but is that the wrong choice, was that the wrong choice, or was that, based on their experience and 12 13 expertise, the reasonable choice at the time? THE COMMISSIONER: Ms Edwardh said 14 to me -- she said, well, when they finally got 15

16 frozen out, actually starting to push, publicity 17 and so on, broke the logjam.

18

25

MS McISAAC:

Eventually.

19THE COMMISSIONER: Yeah. And I20take your point, that one should be careful about21hindsight, but I guess the issue comes, when you22come to dealing with a regime like the Syrians, do23you tip-toe around them, or do you say what you24think, or somewhere in between?

MS McISAAC: And part of the

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problem here, sir, is exactly what I was 1 2 discussing yesterday. We don't really know why Syrian decisions were made. 3 We don't know why they decided to 4 allow the original consular access when they had 5 never done it before. We don't know exactly why 6 7 they cut it off essentially in early February of 2003. We don't know exactly why they decided it 8 9 was okay to have Ms Catterall and Mr. Assadourian visit. We don't know why they then continued to 10 11 refuse to even respond to the diplomatic notes that were sent throughout the next period, and we 12 13 don't know why it is that with the announcement 14 from the Syrian Human Rights Commission and the 15 allegations with respect to torture, they suddenly 16 decided to allow access to Mr. Arar again. 17 We really don't know what the 18 decision-making was on the part of the Syrians, and that's why -- I mean, I don't know that you 19 20 can conclude -- you can speculate -- but I don't know that you can conclude whether it was the 21 2.2 publicity or whether it was something else. 23 THE COMMISSIONER: Did we learn 24 anything from all of this? 25 MS McISAAC: Pardon?

THE COMMISSIONER: Did we learn 1 2 anything from all of this? I mean, what I find about what you're saying is, it would suggest, 3 well, we don't know anything; therefore, I guess 4 we have no lessons to take forward when we're 5 confronted with a situation like this, and that 6 7 would sort of be a depressing thought. MS McISAAC: Well, I'm not sure --8 9 I mean, it's a depressing thought, but I'm not sure it's a surprising thought, sir. 10 11 For instance, we have a case -- I mean, we had the case of Mr. Sampson. That case 12 was different from Mr. Arar's. Mr. Almalki was 13 slightly different from Mr. Arar. They are all 14 15 different. 16 And that's why we have individuals 17 like Mr. Pardy at the time, Mr. Sigurdson now, whose job, in conjunction with other officials at 18 Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador, the consular 19 20 officers on the ground, have to make these difficult choices. 21 22 They have to decide, what is the best way to go here? Do we make a big fuss? 23 Is 24 that going to work? Or is that going to have exactly the opposite effect? 25

1 And what I'm saying to you, sir, 2 is that it's very difficult for these people to make these judgments, and we will all come at it 3 from a different perspective when we're assessing 4 the judgments that they've made. And what I urge 5 on you, sir, is to make that assessment on the 6 7 basis that these people may have made mistakes, but they were acting in good faith and they were 8 9 making decisions on the basis of what they thought was best for Mr. Arar. 10 THE COMMISSIONER: And, really, 11 12 that was what I was suggesting in my question, 13 Ms McIsaac, was it seems to me there are two 14 exercises that we go through here. I will go

One will be to evaluate what 16 17 happened and so on. The second will be, having done that, whatever it is, is what lessons, if 18 any -- I mean, it may be that some situations, 19 20 there's nothing to be learned from what happened. We simply don't know enough. Now, that's what I 21 22 would have thought would be a concerning thought, 23 I think.

through both of them.

15

24 MS McISAAC: Well, I'm not so sure 25 though, sir, even if we knew exactly what had

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1 happened.

2 Let's say you could conclude, and I don't think you can, but let's say you could 3 conclude that a whole bunch of publicity was 4 exactly the right thing to have done and that's 5 what finally got Mr. Arar out of jail. All right. 6 7 So next year, we have somebody else who's incarcerated in China, or Iran, or anywhere 8 9 else -- name your country -- does that mean that a whole bunch of publicity is going to work in that 10 11 case, too? It doesn't. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: Probably -- I 13 think one would make a mistake if you jumped to 14 arbitrary approaches. 15 MS McISAAC: Right. Similarly, 16 let's assume we have somebody incarcerated in 17 Syria, dual Canadian national. Can we assume that a whole bunch of publicity is going to work there 18 just because it may have worked the time before? 19 20 I think the answer is: No, sir, we don't know. 21 And these people -- Mr. Pardy, Ms Pastyr-Lupul, 22 Ambassador Pillarella, Mr. Martel -- all, in my 23 submission, made their decisions in good faith 24 based on what they thought was the best they could 25 do for Mr. Arar.

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1 I really was quite disturbed by 2 any suggestion that these individuals would act with any kind of malice towards Mr. Arar. 3 Why would they do that? Why would they do anything 4 but what they thought was the best thing there was 5 to do for Mr. Arar? Why would they want him to 6 7 stay in prison? Why would they not want him to be freed and able to come back to Canada? There's no 8 9 reason. Absolutely no reason why these people would want that. 10

11 So why would they do anything but 12 act in good faith on the basis of what they felt 13 at the time was the best thing to do for Mr. Arar? 14 And I leave you with that, sir, because a 15 suggestion other than that, in my submission, is 16 really guite unfair.

I don't know if it's worthwhile 17 going through the consular visits. I think what's 18 important to note is that the consular visits did 19 20 get a little easier. Everybody was a little more relaxed. And Mr. Martel has noted at each 21 22 occasion that as he met with Mr. Arar, he seemed 23 to be still relatively okay, and there were never, 24 as I understood the reports, any obvious signs of 25 mistreatment.

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1 He was allowed to provide him with reading material, I believe money was provided, he 2 was able to show him pictures, Mr. Arar was 3 writing back to his family and messages were being 4 exchanged. This isn't ideal. This isn't perfect. 5 This is far, far from ideal or from perfect. 6 But 7 I think the evidence of Mr. Martel was that the Syrians -- these were their rules of the game. 8 9 And Mr. Martel I think even testified that early on he felt that Mr. Arar had also made a decision 10 that consular access, as limited as it was, was 11 better than nothing. So neither of them was 12 13 really going to do much to rock the boat, as long as they could maintain that consular access. 14 15 Now, of course it got cut off, and 16 I think the evidence of Mr. Pardy, and 17 particularly Mr. Martel and Mr. Pillarella, was that they were devastated when they were told, in 18 I believe it was in February, to start dealing 19 20 with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because they

21 had never had any success dealing with the 22 Ministry of Foreign Affairs before, and I think 23 they rightly predicted that at the point where 24 they were going to be obliged to deal with the 25 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that was a signal

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1 that their access was going to be very, very difficult, if not impossible, and indeed it turned 2 out that it was. 3 They had one more visit, which was 4 arranged by the Department of Foreign Affairs, 5 with the hope that a visit from Ms Catterall and 6 7 Mr. Assadourian, representing Canada, representing Canadian Parliamentarians, and representing 8 9 Canadian people, again bringing a letter from Mr. Graham, would have some ability to either get 10 11 Mr. Arar out or, at the very least, allow the 12 consular access to be reinstated. Unfortunately, that didn't work. 13 14 But, once again, it did give the delegation an 15 opportunity to assess Mr. Arar, and as I recall Ms Catterall's evidence, her evidence was that, 16 17 again, Mr. Arar appeared to be in reasonably good health. I keep saying I use that term very 18 advisedly because everything, of course, is 19 20 relative. But at no stage did they have 21 22 evidence that would have allowed them to protest 23 to the Syrians about the way Mr. Arar was being 24 physically treated. They did protest again and again, 25

1 by way of diplomatic notes, to the fact that they 2 were not being allowed consular access, and of course I don't need to go through all the 3 evidence, but we have -- the Ambassador is called 4 in, Mr. Graham phones the Foreign Minister, a 5 letter is sent when Ms Catterall and 6 7 Mr. Assadourian go over, and every opportunity, Mr. Pillarella testified, that he could, he raised 8 9 the Arar case with his Syrian contacts and made the point that we want Mr. Arar back. Let him go, 10 send him home to Canada. 11 That was 12 Mr. Pillarella's evidence. 13 I'm going to come back to the 14 second letter, the letter that eventually came from the Prime Minister, and I'm going to deal 15 16 with that as a separate topic. 17 THE COMMISSIONER: Are you going 18 to deal with the consular reports being shared with others? 19 20 MS McISAAC: Yes, I will, sir. 21 --- Pause 2.2 Sorry. I just sort of lost my train of thought. 23 24 THE COMMISSIONER: That's okay. Take your time. 25

MS McISAAC: Yes, the next topic I 1 2 was going to deal with is information-sharing, and in our submission, as I understand the issues that 3 are of concern to the Commission, 4 information-sharing really breaks down into what 5 I'll call three categories. 6 7 There is, firstly, the information received from Syria, and that's not really 8 9 information-sharing, but sharing by Syria with Canada; that's the decision to have Ambassador 10 11 Pillarella obtain from the Syrians information that they had received from Mr. Arar during his 12 13 questioning by them and as part of their 14 investigation. The CSIS visit to Syria. 15 Second topic is RCMP discussions about the possibility of sharing investigative 16 17 information with the Syrian authorities. And finally, the third aspect of 18 that is Mr. Pardy's decision to share some of the 19 20 consular reports and consular information with the RCMP and CSIS. 21 2.2 THE COMMISSIONER: Does he share that -- just on that, to sort of take you out of 23 24 it -- with both the RCMP and CSIS?

25 MS McISAAC: I believe there were

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two documents, if I'm not mistaken, that were 1 shared with CSIS. 2 Is that correct? 3 THE COMMISSIONER: But Mr. Pardy, 4 I think, what the suggestion is --5 MR. CAVALLUZZO: CSIS received two 6 7 documents, one January the 7th of 2003, and the other April 22nd of 2003. 8 9 As to whether Mr. Pardy approved the transfer of those documents to CSIS is -- I 10 don't believe there is evidence to that effect. 11 However, I could be corrected. 12 MS McISAAC: I think in all cases 13 the vehicle for the transfer of the information 14 was ISI, though. That would be my understanding. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Thank 17 you. MS McISAAC: First of all, I'd 18 like to deal with the decision that was made to 19 20 obtain from the Syrians information that they had gathered as a result of their investigation, and 21 2.2 in particular what we could call Mr. Arar's, well, in quotes, "confession," as they called it. 23 The 24 information they obtained from him during their questioning or interrogation of him. And I want 25

1 to look at the genesis of how that came about, and 2 that is discussed at page 10 of our review of the 3 evidence in Chapter 6.

But essentially what happened is 4 that, upon reading the first consular report, and 5 of course at that point being aware of the fact 6 7 that there had been an A-OCANADA investigation during which Mr. Arar's name had come up, that the 8 9 Americans had apparently sent Mr. Arar to Syria because of their belief that he had ties with 10 11 al-Qaeda in some manner, it was Mr. Pardy who 12 directed the Ambassador to follow up with his 13 contacts, particularly General Khalil, in order to see if he could get more information on the state 14 of their investigation and any conclusions they, 15 16 being the Syrians, might have reached with respect 17 to Mr. Arar.

Because at this time we're still 18 trying to figure out, what's going on here. 19 20 We've got this individual, as 21 Mr. Fothergill pointed out yesterday, where the 2.2 A-OCANADA/RCMP investigation has told the 23 Americans: "We don't make any links to al-Qaeda. 24 Yes, there have been some contacts. We're still trying to figure out what's going on." 25

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1 The Americans would appear to have 2 decided that this person is of such importance and interest that they've engaged in this elaborate 3 activity to get him out of the country to Syria. 4 What's going on here? What is it 5 that the Syrians know? What is happening? 6 And 7 the Syrian of course at that point had indicated to -- General Khalil I believe had indicated to 8 9 Mr. Pillarella that they were investigating Mr. Arar for possible links to terrorism. 10 11 So they wanted to find out what 12 was going on, and it was Pardy who expressly 13 suggested to Mr. Pillarella that he go back to his contacts at SMI and ask them for any additional 14 information they might have. 15 Pardy's reason for doing that was 16 17 to help Foreign Affairs understand what it was the Syrians believed Mr. Arar had done. Why are they 18 holding this man? Why are they investigating him? 19 20 What is going on? And Mr. Pardy's evidence is that 21 22 that information would, in turn, allow Foreign Affairs officials to work more effectively for 23 24 consular access, if they knew what they were up 25 against.

So, again, this isn't Ambassador 1 2 Pillarella running around getting information from General Khalil. What it is, it's a collective 3 decision on the part of Foreign Affairs consular 4 officials that more information to assist them in 5 understanding what the Syrian position was 6 7 regarding Mr. Arar would be useful and necessary to allow them to understand what was happening, 8 9 and to allow them to effectively deal with the very unusual situation that they were faced with. 10 11 And Mr. Pardy actually testified that this idea of obtaining more information about 12 13 what was going on, what the charges were, et 14 cetera, these are standard instructions. They go out to ambassadors all the time in these complex 15 cases, where there is no clear situation where an 16 17 individual is incarcerated and a charge is laid and it's obvious what the situation is. They need 18 to have this information in order to provide 19 20 effective consular services. 21 So Ambassador Pillarella, in accordance with --2.2 23 THE COMMISSIONER: Was that the 24 purpose, you say, of the visit then to get 25 information from the Syrians to assist with their

1 consular --

2 MS McISAAC: That was Mr. Pardy's evidence. Yes, it was. I think if you look 3 carefully at --4 THE COMMISSIONER: I want to be 5 careful here. But is there other evidence that 6 7 suggests there was another interest? Just getting some other intelligence? 8 MS McISAAC: Well, I think as a 9 broader view, yes, there was, sir. I think we 10 11 also have to keep this in mind. I mean, let's be realistic here. 12 The Americans -- Mr. Arar is not 13 an unknown person. He's at least known to the 14 A-OCANADA investigation. His name was known to 15 CSIS. We don't have information that links him to 16 17 al-Qaeda. We tell the Americans we don't have information that links him to al-Oaeda. 18 However, the Americans appear to 19 20 have something -- something that caused them to 21 send him to Syria. 2.2 The Syrians, when Mr. Pillarella has his first visit with General Khalil, indicate 23 24 that they appear to have information that ties 25 Mr. Arar to terrorism or to al-Qaeda.

So, yes, we need to know what 1 that's all about in order to deliver effective 2 consular services, but, yes, we need to know that, 3 because it might -- it might -- we don't know; we 4 haven't seen it yet -- it might be very important 5 to our either policing, or security services, or 6 7 both with respect to the safety of Canadians. We don't know. 8 9 So, yes, there is a national security reason for wanting to find out what the 10 11 Syrians know as well. Again, these circumstances under 12 13 which Mr. Pillarella actually gets the information from General Khalil I think have been 14 miscategorized in some of the media reporting as 15 well, and I think it's important to clarify, in my 16 17 submission, what I think the evidence really said. The evidence basically is that 18 Mr. Pillarella was on his way back to Canada 19 20 anyway. And as we know, he was, in fact, back in Canada by at least the 6th of November. 21 22 So he spoke with General Khalil, and General Khalil indicated to him that they had 23 24 information. He gave him a general idea of what the information was. 25

And Mr. Pillarella said, "Well, 1 2 can you put it in writing for me so I can take it back to Canada with me?" Now, that's an eminently 3 sensible request. 4 Now, Mr. Pillarella was happy to 5 receive that information as quickly as he did. 6 7 But why was he happy? Well, he was happy because he was 8 9 getting on an airplane that night and he wanted to take it with him. 10 11 So if the Syrians had delayed for 12 two or three days in getting it to him, he 13 wouldn't have been able to bring it back with him. And his ability to discuss that information back 14 in Ottawa with the appropriate officials would 15 16 have obviously been delayed. 17 So of course he was pleased that he received it quickly. 18 Mr. Pardy, I think the evidence 19 20 is, was not actually in Ottawa at that time. I believe he was in Beirut, if I'm not mistaken, and 21 22 Ambassador Pillarella, before leaving Damascus, called Mr. Pardy and gave him a full briefing 23 24 about his discussions with General Khalil and the fact that he would be bringing the information 25

back to Canada and that there would be discussions 1 2 in Canada with respect to that information. In my submission, all of those 3 actions are (a) collectively taken by individuals 4 at Foreign Affairs who are thinking about two 5 things. 6 7 They are thinking about, "What do we need to know to understand Mr. Arar's situation 8 so that we can assist him?" But they're also 9 thinking, quite properly, "What is going on here? 10 11 What information do they have? Do we need this information?" And of course, "We must find out 12 13 what's going on just in case this information 14 could be of great importance to the security of 15 Canada." 16 And that's, in my submission, the 17 thinking, the appropriate thinking, of those individuals. 18 Now, it turns out, and I don't 19 20 want to stray into information that's not on the public record, because I know Ms Edwardh had some 21 22 problems with the summary of that being made 23 public, but the information comes back, and it includes two things. 24 It concludes what the Syrians have 25

1 so far, or are willing to at least what they are willing to share with us, of their questioning of 2 Mr. Arar, and it also indicates that the Syrians 3 are willing to continue their cooperation by 4 having further discussions with Canadian security 5 officials. They don't want to talk to the police, 6 7 apparently, but they would be prepared to talk to Canadian security officials. 8 9 Well, again, there are a couple of 10 opportunities here. One is to obtain more information 11 12 about what is it that Syrians think is going on with Mr. Arar. 13 But secondly, you will remember my 14 remarks yesterday, and certainly I didn't take you 15 16 through it, but Mr. Hirsch's book, and the general 17 understanding at the time that the Syrians actually were providing some fairly useful 18 intelligence at least to the Americans with 19 20 respect to global terrorist threats. 21 So this also provided an 22 opportunity for the CSIS delegation to obtain 23 general information that the Syrians might have 24 with respect to global terrorism and terrorist 25 threats.

1 The instructions to the CSIS 2 delegation were clear. They were going to receive whatever information the Syrians might be willing 3 to provide to them, and, yes, that included 4 information about Mr. Arar, if they were willing. 5 They were not going to, and in my submission the 6 7 evidence is clear, although I appreciate some of it is in camera, they did not give any information 8 9 to the Syrians. They received it only. And in my submission, both the 10 11 attempts by Canada, through the Ambassador -again, I emphasize, the Ambassador's evidence has 12 been portrayed from time to time as if he was off 13 on some kind of frolic of his own. He was not. 14 He was following instructions based on a 15 16 collective decision that it would be appropriate 17 to receive this information from the Syrians, and the collective decision of the Department of 18 Foreign Affairs and CSIS was that it would be 19 20 appropriate for CSIS to take this trip to obtain more information, if possible, on all sorts of 21 22 things, including general global threat. The other thing that we mustn't 23 24 forget, and I think I mentioned yesterday that the

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United States had been on one of their high alerts

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1 throughout this period. I believe -- I may have 2 the date wrong -- but I think it's October 12th the Bali bombing occurred. 3 So this is the milieu in which 4 people were operating. They were concerned. 5 And 6 Canada had been named as a possible target. 7 So this is what people were thinking. This is what people were worrying 8 9 about. And this is what they were trying to deal with at the time. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Was there 12 concern about the possibility that cancelling the 13 Minister's call that preceded this, which was to deal with having Mr. Arar's release so that a trip 14 15 from the Canadian intelligence agency to collect 16 information potentially about Mr. Arar might send 17 a signal to the Syrian --18 MS McISAAC: Well, my understanding of the evidence, sir, and of course 19 20 you'll have to come to your own conclusions, but I 21 urge you to go back to it, because my 22 understanding of the evidence was that the cancellation of the call was not tied to the CSIS 23 24 visit. The cancellation of the call was 25

1 that they were unable to make arrangements for 2 Minister Graham to speak to his counterpart in Syria, and a decision was taken -- this is sort of 3 a parallel track decision, in my submission, the 4 parallel track decision being that they would call 5 in the Ambassador in Canada first. Then that 6 7 would leave them the opening for Mr. Graham to place a call to the Foreign Minister later on. 8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: I must say my recollection is a bit different, but the evidence 10 11 will speak for itself. 12 MS McISAAC: I suppose what I can 13 urge on you, sir, is to go back to that evidence, to just be careful that you read it again. 14 And obviously if your conclusion is different than 15 mine, it will be different than mine. 16 17 But my recollection, and my submission to you, is that the reading of the 18 evidence will indicate that it was not -- the call 19 was not delayed because of the CSIS visit. 20 There were other reasons why the call --21 2.2 THE COMMISSIONER: There was 23 difficulty arranging the call in December, which 24 essentially led to it being put over to January. 25 But I thought --

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1	MS McISAAC: In the meantime
2	recall the Ambassador was called in instead. They
3	called the Syrian Ambassador here in Canada in to
4	protest to him Mr. Arar's continued incarceration.
5	THE COMMISSIONER: Right. No, but
6	I'm going back to the call was initially
7	scheduled for November 18th, wasn't it?
8	MS McISAAC: I believe that
9	possibly.
10	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. And then
11	the visit took place on the 21st to the 24th. I
12	thought well, I have a recollection of the
13	linkage, but I'll look at the record.
14	MS McISAAC: Please, sir, because
15	I don't think it's that clear. There were
16	parallel things happening at the time.
17	I just also want to make the other
18	point that while there was some discussion about
19	perhaps delaying the visit, I think all witnesses
20	have been clear that the delay was only a question
21	of timing and related more to the fact of the
22	intense publicity that Mr. Arar's case had at that
23	time rather than the efficacy of a visit per se.
24	It was a timing issue more than anything else.
25	THE COMMISSIONER: I guess we

1 begin to encounter, though, when we have a 2 Canadian in detention in a place like Syria, with the concerns about abuse and so on, it begins to 3 raise concern about whether or not we're 4 sending -- if our primary goal is to have him 5 released. Let's assume as a country, everybody in 6 7 Canada says, "Yes, our number one objective is," then all arms of the Canadian government do 8 9 everything that is consistent with that and in no way do anything that could even be interpreted as 10 inconsistent with that. 11 12 MS McISAAC: Well --13 THE COMMISSIONER: What I'm 14 suggesting now, if it is the primary goal, then we 15 begin to -- one has to look at and say, "What did 16 different arms of the Canadian government do? Did 17 they do anything that might be interpreted differently?" 18 MS McISAAC: Yes, but it is not 19 20 that simple. THE COMMISSIONER: Is that a fair 21 22 question? MS McISAAC: It is a fair 23 24 question. And I'll put it back to you, sir, with respect, it's not that simple, is it? We now know 25

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that nothing was going on. But at the time what 1 if -- I want to be careful. I don't want anybody 2 to take my what ifs as being anything that really 3 happened. 4 What if Mr. Arar was, in fact, a 5 prime player in some event that was going to 6 7 occur? What if the Syrians knew something as a result of their questioning of Mr. Arar? What if? 8 They didn't know. And I guess --9 that's the problem. And this is the problem that 10 11 officials are faced with. 12 Yes, we want Mr. Arar back. We 13 want to work at getting Mr. Arar back, because whether he is involved in some activity that he 14 shouldn't be involved in or not, he is not to be 15 16 banged up in a Syrian prison without any of the 17 rights that we would normally consider to be appropriate for an individual who is either quilty 18 of or suspected of some kind of offence. 19 20 On the other hand, we have our obligations to Canada and to Canadians, and we 21 22 have to figure out a way to put those together. 23 And my submission to you would be 24 at the time the collective view of Canadian officials was that they could take the consular 25

route: obtain information, try to continue their 1 access with Mr. Arar, find out what was going on, 2 and at the same time use the opportunity of the 3 offer from the Syrian military to meet with Canada 4 in order to attempt to find out more about what 5 the Syrians might know about global terrorism 6 7 issues and indeed, if they knew anything more about what they might know about Mr. Arar or 8 9 anyone he might be involved with --10 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you suggest, 11 though, that in advancing your what-if objective, that in some circumstances it would then be okay, 12 13 in furtherance of protecting national security, to obtain information from a country like Syria, that 14 we had reasonable grounds to believe was obtained 15 16 by torture? 17 MS McISAAC: That's the moral debate I think that Mr. Elcock was engaged in with 18 Commission counsel, and it's a horribly difficult 19 20 question, isn't it?

Let us say -- let me give you an example. Let us say that I know, or the security service knows, that an individual is going to go into, well, let's use Damascus, we've been talking about Damascus, is going to blow up the British

Embassy, the Canadian Embassy, in some sort of 1 2 concerted effort to blow up a bunch of Embassies, and a lot of people are going to be killed. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: This is the 4 Bloor subway station. 5 MS McISAAC: Well, it's the 6 7 opposite of the subway station. We give information to the Syrians --8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, okay. MS McISAAC: And we know darn well 10 11 that the individuals are going to be, if they're picked up, are going to be tortured, ill-treated, 12 13 badly treated. Do we not do that, sir? 14 THE COMMISSIONER: What you raise 15 is --16 MS McISAAC: And then you turn it 17 around and we have the bombing in Canada. We know the information has come as a result of torture --18 THE COMMISSIONER: In both cases 19 20 you're talking about a very real, imminent 21 catastrophic effect. 2.2 MS McISAAC: Well, again, it's --23 THE COMMISSIONER: It's the thing 24 that Mr. -- let me just finish my question. It's 25 the thing that Mr. Dershowitz has written about,

that he would say justifies the use of torture. 1 2 Okay. I think we can all safely agree 3 that we didn't, in Mr. Arar's case, approach the 4 Bloor subway station or the British Embassy. 5 MS McISAAC: Well -- but let's put 6 7 ourselves back in the situation that the Canadian government was in, in the fall of 2002. We didn't 8 9 actually know what the Americans -- the full extent of what it is the Americans thought they 10 11 knew. Now it turns out that --12 THE COMMISSIONER: Could it be 13 reasonably expected that if the Americans had 14 knowledge that the Bloor subway station was going to be blown up, that they would have told us? 15 MS McISAAC: I don't know. I 16 17 guess it was reasonable to assume, but a lot of things didn't happen the way one would reasonably 18 have thought they would happen --19 20 THE COMMISSIONER: I would have thought --21 2.2 MS McISAAC: Well --23 THE COMMISSIONER: Just let me 24 finish. Whatever one has to say about the United States' decision in this case, I don't think 25

anybody would suggest that if they knew of an 1 2 imminent threat to the safety of Canadians, that the Americans would not have notified us and fully 3 assisted in dealing with the threat. I mean, that 4 would seem to me to be going -- I'm not sure 5 you're suggesting that --6 7 MS McISAAC: And I'm not. Ι certainly wasn't suggesting that. 8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: I certainly wouldn't need an awful lot of convincing to be 10 11 persuaded of that. 12 MS McISAAC: No, I wasn't suggesting that, sir. 13 What I'm trying to say to you, 14 sir, is there are situations where Canadian 15 officials -- these Canadian officials were 16 17 involved in making some difficult choices. And in my submission, they did not 18 see at the time that there was an incompatibility 19 20 between continuing to push for consular access and attempts to get Mr. Arar out, trying to find out 21 2.2 what it was the Syrians knew or thought they knew

about Mr. Arar, and using the opportunity to see
if we could obtain more information, particularly
general information regarding global terrorism, by

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1 having the CSIS delegation visit Syria. 2 Those decisions, again, were made by good-faith individuals with heavy 3 responsibilities, based on the information they 4 had at the time, bringing to bear, in my 5 submission, their best judgment. 6 7 They were not made with any animus towards Mr. Arar. Not by anybody. They were made 8 9 in good faith, very difficult decisions, very important decisions, and these people have to make 10 those decisions and they made them. 11 12 THE COMMISSIONER: Good. 13 MS McISAAC: All right. I was about to move on to the 14 second two parts of the information-sharing topic 15 16 in general, and if appropriate, maybe we could 17 have a break? 18 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. We'll take a 15-minute break. 19 20 THE REGISTRAR: Please stand. --- Upon recessing at 11:15 a.m. / 21 2.2 Suspension à 11 h 15 23 --- Upon resuming at 11:36 a.m. / 24 Reprise à 11 h 36 THE REGISTRAR: Please be seated. 25

1 MS McISAAC: Thank you, sir. 2 THE COMMISSIONER: Ms McIsaac? 3 MS McISAAC: With your permission then, sir, I'm going to move on to the second 4 subtopic, if you will, on the issue of 5 information-sharing, and that was the discussions 6 7 that the RCMP had, particularly that Cabana had with Gould when Gould phoned in October to advise 8 9 the RCMP that the Syrians had, in fact, acknowledged that Mr. Arar was in their custody. 10 11 The totality of that evidence is 12 that this is early in the situation, we still 13 don't know quite what's going on. Mr. Arar has been missing since he was removed from New York. 14 The Americans would appear to know more than the 15 16 Canadians know. The Syrians maybe know more than 17 the Canadians know. And the totality of the evidence, quite frankly, is a vaque knee-jerk 18 reaction, if I can put it that way, on the part of 19 20 Inspector Cabana when he first hears from Mr. Gould. 21 2.2 In my submission the offer to 23 share was not an offer. It was a blue-sky 24 discussion more than anything else. 25 And you will recall that Deputy

Commissioner Loeppky testified that decisions to 1 2 go forward with the provision of questions or provision of information to another police force, 3 or even the decision to invite Syrian authorities 4 to attend in Canada to discuss the A-OCANADA 5 investigation, would go through a process, and at 6 7 that point there would be the involvement of CID, there would be the involvement of Foreign Affairs, 8 9 and there would be a broad-based discussion about it. 10 11 So, really, what is there is a 12 discussion, and I say to you, is it appropriate to criticize someone for that kind of discussion in 13 an abstract way, as it was at that point? 14 15 The third aspect is Mr. Pardy's decision to share certain consular information 16 17 with other authorities. Now, I think we have to start with 18 the proposition that everyone agrees that some 19 20 degree of sharing is appropriate. For instance, as I understood the 21 2.2 position of Mr. Arar's counsel, and indeed perhaps Commission counsel's view through some of the 23 24 questioning, it would have been, they believed, appropriate for Foreign Affairs to share 25

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1 information about the alleged threats to send 2 Mr. Arar to Syria with the RCMP. Maybe the RCMP could have done something about it had that threat 3 been seen as Foreign Affairs as serious. 4 We've heard evidence during the 5 cross-examination, really, of Mr. Pardy with 6 7 respect to the sharing of consular information with police authorities in other situations where 8 9 the police were, in fact, able to assist by providing information that would demonstrate -- I 10 think in that case it was the innocence of the 11 12 individuals involved. 13 So the sharing of information on the basis of consular information received with 14 other Canadian police or security authorities, in 15 16 my submission, can be appropriate in certain 17 circumstances. Mr. Pardy was clear in his 18 evidence that he saw the information-sharing as a 19 20 way to engage a broader coalition of Canadian agencies and departments, and it was part of his 21 2.2 effort to seek Mr. Arar's release. 23 I think we would also agree that 24 there must be circumstances in which it's

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permissible to engage in the exchange of

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1 information if that information is appropriately 2 shared for the purposes of genuine police interests, the security of Canadians. 3 The difficulty I think we face is 4 that there has to be a clear delineation, or a 5 clear set of quidelines, in which it is 6 7 appropriate to share information. Again, my submission to you would 8 9 be that the information in this case was shared by Mr. Pardy, for the most part with his authority, 10 11 for the purpose of assisting in providing consular services to Mr. Arar. 12 13 I think he was particularly 14 interested in whether Canadian police or security officials might have information, as he had been 15 able to do in other cases, that would tend to 16 17 rebut the allegations that were being made by the Syrians. 18 As I say, I think some of the 19 20 other information was shared with the agreement and concurrence of ISI on the basis that it would 21 22 be necessary for our police and security agencies to be aware of what was happening in Syria. 23 24 The information that came directly from the Syrians, in my submission, is not 25

consular information. That is information that is 1 2 provided outside of the provision of consular services. 3 I think what we're talking about, 4 in terms of the sharing, is the information 5 obtained during the course of consular visits or 6 7 consular discussions with Mr. Martel. On that point, or on that issue, I 8 9 would make the following points: The first one is that the sharing 10 11 of the information again was made in difficult circumstances -- the decision to share was made in 12 difficult circumstances, in good faith, in the 13 belief and understanding that the sharing was 14 necessary and appropriate both to assist Mr. Arar 15 and to keep our security and policing agencies 16 17 abreast of what the situation was in Syria. The second point, though, is that 18 I will concede that the brochure that is given to 19 20 individuals, as I've put it in my -- I think I've called it the "bon vloyage", one of the typos that 21 22 didn't get caught late at night, the bon voyage booklet is perhaps overly broad and could be 23 24 misleading with respect to the situation of the confidentiality of consular exchanges. 25

1 And I can tell you that this is a difficult area. It's a small area. I think it's 2 very seldom, not very often, that we're going to 3 have security issues of the nature that arose in 4 this case, high-profile consular case, where the 5 difficult choices about sharing information need 6 7 to be made. The vast majority of consular cases, this issue will not arise. But it does arise --8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Do I understand you to say that it would be all right to share 10 information obtained during a consular visit for 11 national security investigation purposes? Was 12 13 that --MS McISAAC: I believe there may 14 be circumstances in which it would, yes. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Are we talking 17 the imminent threat? I mean --MS McISAAC: Certainly that would 18 be an example for certain where it would be 19 20 appropriate. But what I think --THE COMMISSIONER: But there would 21 22 be nothing in this case, when we look at these consular reports, that would fit into that 23 24 category? MS McISAAC: I think it was more a 25

point of keeping the security officials and 1 authorities aware of what the situation was and 2 what was happening in Syria so that Mr. Pardy --3 at least that's as I understood his evidence --4 could tap into their knowledge as appropriate --5 THE COMMISSIONER: To assist 6 7 Mr. Arar. MS McISAAC: -- to assist 8 9 Mr. Arar. Okay, but where 10 THE COMMISSIONER: 11 I'm drawing the line is, it's one thing, it seems to me, to share the consular reports in order to 12 assist the person. It's another to share it for a 13 national security investigation purpose. 14 15 MS McISAAC: A different set of criteria to go by. 16 17 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. What I'm asking you is, for the second category, leaving 18 aside the very imminent threat, the Bloor Street 19 20 subway and so on. 21 MS MCISAAC: Yes. 2.2 THE COMMISSIONER: Or even looking at these consular reports, would there be any 23 24 justification for sharing these reports solely for 25 the purpose of furthering a national security

1 investigation?

Is that the Government's position, 2 that that would have been okay for that purpose? 3 MS McISAAC: No, actually, what 4 the Government's position is, sir, is I'm going to 5 turn that back to you. And I'm going to say, as I 6 7 did before, this is a very difficult area. It's one that we all have to grapple with. 8 9 There are choices that need to be made, and I think that there is a recognition that 10 11 criteria need to be developed in order to guide the decision-makers as to when it's appropriate to 12 13 share information and when it's not, and I am, in fact, inviting you, if you feel that you have 14 observations in your report that would assist in 15 developing the appropriate criteria with respect 16 17 to the sharing of consular information, both in circumstances where there's a view that it might 18 assist the individual and in circumstances where 19 20 it might be considered that the sharing of information would be useful for national security 21 22 purposes. 23 I would agree with you, and I

24 believe the Government would agree with you, that 25 it's a difficult area and that there needs to be a

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set of criteria developed in order to deal with 1 the decision -- to at least quide the 2 decision-makers in what factors are to be taken 3 into account when reaching these decisions. 4 But I urge again. Of course, it's 5 a very, very small number of consular cases where 6 7 that sort of issue will even arise. --- Pause 8 9 Our submissions in full are, of course, contained in Chapter 7 of our submissions, 10 11 and they are beginning at paragraph 33, and there is reference back to Mr. Pardy's thinking on that 12 13 point as well. I would then like to deal with, if 14 I may, the issue of the letter, and this of course 15 16 is the letter that was contemplated in May and 17 June to be signed by Minister Graham and ultimately, of course, was signed by the Prime 18 Minister and delivered by Senator De Bané. 19 The idea of a letter in some ways 20 21 goes back to Mr. Edelson's request early in the 22 process when he had approached A-OCANADA and was looking for some kind of letter from the RCMP with 23 24 respect to Mr. Arar that could be delivered to the Syrians, and that issue is dealt with in our 25

submissions, under the RCMP submissions, 1 2 Chapter 5, beginning at paragraph 59. But in essence, the difficulty for 3 the RCMP with respect to Mr. Edelson's letter was 4 his request that there be a letter saying that 5 Mr. Arar was not suspected of any terrorist 6 7 activity. Foreign Affairs, of course, was 8 9 aware that Mr. Arar was least a person of interest, as somebody who had come to the 10 11 attention of the A-OCANADA investigators. 12 There was the statement that had allegedly been obtained from Mr. Arar that had 13 come back from the Syrians. 14 15 And it was the RCMP position -- I 16 think quite a reasonable position -- that if 17 Foreign Affairs was the one that felt some kind of correspondence to the Syrians was appropriate, 18 that that request should come from Foreign 19 20 Affairs. It shouldn't be funnelled through Mr. Edelson, it should be Foreign Affairs that 21 2.2 would deal with it. 23 They also took the position that 24 this kind of letter would be the most unusual thing. Standard practice of the RCMP is not to 25

1 disclose information about subjects who are identified in the course of an investigation. 2 It's partly to protect the 3 integrity of the investigation, and it's partly to 4 ensure that information isn't provided that might 5 come back in a subsequent proceeding and be used 6 7 in the defence if it's not accurate -- and turns out not to be accurate. 8 9 So the RCMP position, in my submission, was quite reasonable, and that was 10 11 that we'll provide a letter, we'll certainly 12 confirm that Mr. Arar is not wanted for any offence in Canada. He wasn't. But to go so far 13 as to say -- I think the wording that was 14 15 requested, if I can just go back for a minute, "a 16 confirmation that he was not suspected of any 17 terrorist activities, " and, again, this is early days, and we still have a large number of 18 questions have arisen as to what Mr. Arar's actual 19 20 role is and what is happening. THE COMMISSIONER: 21 But at this 22 point -- I'm not quarrelling whether they were 23 asking whether they should send a letter or not. 24 I mean, the fact of his status at this point is he wasn't suspected, he wasn't a 25

suspect, he was a person of interest. 1 2 MS McISAAC: He was a person of 3 interest in the A-OCANADA investigation. But remember, sir, we're still back in the fall of 4 2002, okay? The Americans have decided he's 5 something more. 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. MS McISAAC: Whether they have any 8 basis for that or not is really beside the point 9 10 at that stage. 11 The Syrians have sent some information back suggesting some kind of 12 13 involvement in something. 14 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 15 MS McISAAC: The A-OCANADA investigators, in my submission, are not certain 16 17 what's going on here, and it's not --THE COMMISSIONER: Does that ever 18 change, until Mr. Arar comes home? 19 20 MS McISAAC: Well, I think it 21 does, sir. I think it does change. I think 22 we've -- I don't want to refer to the in-camera evidence, but I think as the in-camera evidence 23 24 develops -- quite frankly, at the end of the day, I mean, I'm not a police investigator and I don't 25

evaluate evidence, but I don't think there was 1 2 much there that took us any further they were at the very beginning as a whole bunch of questions. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. 4 MS McISAAC: But this is early on, 5 and we have got to put ourselves back to the 6 7 situation that they were all faced with at the time. And as I say, our submission is developed 8 9 in our materials. 10 What continued then is, Mr. Arar 11 was getting consular access, and he was getting consular access on a reasonably regular basis up 12 13 until the beginning of February, I believe it was. 14 Certainly from just before Christmas, I believe the December 16th visit or so, there were some 15 significant concerns about whether they were going 16 17 to continue to get the access or not. But there 18 was access. Ms Catterall and Mr. Assadourian 19 20 visited, I believe, in April. They were trying to get them in earlier, but they did go in April, and 21 2.2 they took a letter from Minister Graham with them,

In the meantime, you will recall,the Syrian Ambassador had been called in in the

asking for Mr. Arar's release.

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fall by Canadian authorities here. That's the Syrian Ambassador to Canada. Mr. Graham had phoned his counterpart at the Syrian Foreign Ministry to make a plea for Mr. Arar's return. And then, of course, we have the MPs' visit, and they deliver a letter.

7 But by this time consular access 8 is being denied. The officials in Damascus are 9 told: "Go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 10 That's how we're going to arrange your consular 11 access." Ministry of Foreign Affairs wouldn't 12 respond to requests and diplomatic notes were 13 being unanswered.

14 So Mr. Pardy was looking for 15 another way to try to do something to at least 16 reopen the dialogue with the Syrians, and 17 Mr. Pardy then suggested, I think it started with 18 a joint letter between the Solicitor General and 19 the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

20 Now, the evidence of the 21 witnesses -- first of all, there are two issues 22 that really arise with the letter. The first one 23 is who should sign it? Should it be a joint 24 letter signed by both the Minister of Foreign 25 Affairs and the Solicitor General? And the second

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issue, which I'll come to, is what should it say? 1 In my submission, the consensus of 2 the evidence, evidence of CSIS officials, evidence 3 of Foreign Affairs officials, basically is that 4 the right person to sign this letter really is the 5 Minister of Foreign Affairs. 6 7 This is a consular matter, and the spokesperson for Canada on consular issues is the 8 9 Minister of Foreign Affairs, and after all, I assume that everybody had proceeded on the 10 assumption that this letter would be sent from the 11 Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs to the 12 13 Syrian Department of Foreign Affairs. So the recommendation to the 14 Solicitor General, and the recommendation 15 generally, was that this letter should be signed 16 17 solely by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The second question is: 18 What should the letter say? 19 20 Now, quite frankly, I was reviewing the evidence, because it starts with a 21 22 number of meetings in May. There are meetings involving CSIS, the RCMP, the Department of the 23 24 Solicitor General, Foreign Affairs, and I believe PCO was involved, in order to reach some consensus 25

as to how this letter could be framed for Minister 1 2 Graham to sign. And we don't actually have an 3 awful lot of evidence of what was discussed at 4 those meetings. We know they took place. We have 5 Mr. Pardy's evidence on some of the issues, but I 6 7 was actually rather surprised as I went back to see that there wasn't a great deal of detailed 8 9 evidence as to what the nature of the discussions 10 and the concerns were at those meetings. 11 But nevertheless, a consensus was 12 reached and a letter was drafted, a letter that 13 Mr. Pardy sent up with his briefing note to the Minister of, I believe it was June 5th, and the 14 consensus was that the wording that would be used 15 16 for the Minister's letter was, there's no 17 impediment to Mr. Arar's return to Canada. 18 What then happened is the Minister's office, or officials in the Minister's 19 20 office, decided that they would like to add the additional wording, that there was no evidence 21 2.2 that Mr. Arar was involved in terrorist activity, and I'm not sure I've got that, but the "no 23 24 evidence" phrase was what was put forth. 25 And that went back down through

the consultation process to the Ministry of the 1 2 Solicitor General to get the views of CSIS and the 3 RCMP. Now, I think there are a couple of 4 important points here. 5 First of all, CSIS and the RCMP 6 7 don't tell the Minister of Foreign Affairs what to do. So when they gave their view -- and I think 8 9 if you go back to Deputy Commissioner Loeppky's letter it will be, "We recommend." 10 11 So they don't say you can't sign this letter, don't sign this letter. They say, 12 13 "We recommend against signing that letter." 14 That's the appropriate consultation process because, after all, Minister 15 Graham is going to be speaking on behalf of the 16 17 entire government. Both CSIS and the RCMP advise 18 through the Solicitor General's department that 19 20 their recommendation was against the addition of the new words that there is no evidence. 21 2.2 It's not because they didn't want Quite frankly, I don't think there 23 Mr. Arar back. 24 is any evidence that anybody didn't want Mr. Arar back. It makes a nice story, but I don't think 25

that evidence is there, sir. It isn't. 1 2 But the information in the letter that the Solicitor General was to sign wasn't 3 quite accurate. There wasn't evidence that 4 Mr. Arar is a terrorist, but there was some 5 evidence of links that he had with individuals who 6 7 were the subject of the A-OCANADA investigation, and the concern of the officials, an appropriate 8 9 concern on their part, was to bring to the Minister's attention their concern that he not 10 11 sign a letter of that nature when the information in it might not be -- well, at least on the face 12 13 of it, wasn't quite accurate and might not be accurate at all. 14 15 That's what officials do. They advise Ministers about the steps that Ministers 16 17 are going to take based on the information they have. 18

And even though it is still not clear what those links are, whether they mean anything at all, in my submission, it was appropriate and it was prudent for the RCMP and CSIS to make the recommendations, certainly after this fulsome discussion which had already taken place, that the letter that Minister Graham sent

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and which was ultimately sent by the Prime 1 2 Minister, stick with the wording, "There is no impediment to Mr. Arar's return to Canada." 3 The next topic --4 THE COMMISSIONER: Just before we 5 What do I read into it? You say leave that. 6 7 there's no evidence that they didn't want him I mean, I guess one -- I will make of the 8 back. 9 record what I will when I see the enthusiasm or lack thereof that was in briefing notes and so on. 10 11 But when they suggest wording for a letter, they actually suggest that -- they say 12 13 he is the subject of a national security investigation -- I mean, what strikes me, or let 14 me ask you, I mean, it seems to me in everything 15 I've heard, that was wrong. 16 17 It's ratcheted up, the level of interest, significantly, at a point in time when 18 one would hope they would be striving, doing their 19 20 very best, to get him back, rather than throwing roadblocks --21 2.2 MS McISAAC: Well, I urge you again to go back to the evidence, because what we 23 24 have -- and, quite frankly, I don't know the 25 answer. What we have is an e-mail, I believe,

from Mr. Heatherington, in which he says, "Here is 1 2 the wording that the RCMP and CSIS have agreed on." 3 That wording is similar, if not 4 identical, to what is found in Deputy Commissioner 5 Loeppky's letter, but Deputy Commissioner 6 Loeppky's letter is after Mr. Heatherington's 7 e-mail. 8 9 So I don't actually think that there is a great deal of evidence on the record as 10 11 to the actual discussions among the players. We have the letter, but we don't have the actual 12 13 discussion among the players with respect to what led up to Mr. Heatherington's e-mail. So I 14 15 actually am not sure what the background says. 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we have 17 the letter, but the letter tends to speak for itself. 18 19 MS McISAAC: But Deputy 20 Commissioner Loeppky's letter doesn't recommend that wording, if you go back to it. He isn't 21 22 recommending wording. 23 He's recommending against 24 including the no-evidence statement because Mr. Arar is, and he says, the subject --25

THE COMMISSIONER: Of a national 1 2 security investigation --3 MS McISAAC: But he doesn't recommend that wording. 4 THE COMMISSIONER: No, but he was 5 not that. 6 7 MS McISAAC: It depends again. We have this difficulty with the RCMP and the various 8 9 officers will use terminology differently when it comes to describing an individual. 10 11 He was of interest, certainly. I think on the basis of most of the information we 12 have. "Subject" was probably not the most 13 appropriate choice of words there. 14 15 But it's not a recommendation as to what should go in the letter. I want you to go 16 17 back, please, sir --THE COMMISSIONER: I certainly 18 will. And I'm aware of what it says. 19 20 But it does -- I guess it could 21 raise a concern in somebody's mind that he's being 22 described as a subject of a national security investigation, which -- I mean, to whomever is 23 24 going to read that letter, which is at a fairly 25 critical time, at least one could argue,

overstates the level of interest. I mean, other 1 2 people keep saying, "We're interested in interviewing him as a witness." 3 However you want to characterize 4 what's going on, I know they don't have the CSIS 5 system, but the difference between being the 6 7 subject of a national security investigation and a potential witness, I think in anybody's book, is a 8 9 real difference. 10 MS McISAAC: Right. But can you 11 take that, sir, and turn it into a conclusion that Canadian officials didn't want Mr. Arar back? 12 13 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly one would want to, in evaluating all the evidence --14 that would be a factor that one might look at. 15 16 MS McISAAC: I don't disagree with 17 that, sir. 18 The next topic I wanted to deal with, unless I can assist you there, is what has 19 been called mixed messages. 20 And I believe that it's a number 21 22 of things, but primarily it falls into two categories. 23 24 It's the idea of having CSIS visit and the idea of Ambassador Pillarella or CSIS 25

bringing information back from the Syrians, and I 1 2 think I already dealt with that before the break. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. MS McISAAC: The second part is 4 the assertion that comes from the Syrians that 5 there were not just mixed messages inadvertently 6 7 given but that CSIS or somebody actually said, "We don't want him back." 8 9 And I believe the evidence is, Ambassador Pillarella's C-4 message back to 10 11 Canada, I believe of January 16th, if I'm not mistaken, indicates that it was CSIS. I believe 12 Mr. Martel's evidence was that he heard at one 13 14 point more generally Canada doesn't want him back. 15 A couple of points. The first one, let's look at that 16 17 message. Ambassador Pillarella receives information from his Syrian contacts, receives two 18 pieces of information. The first one is, Mr. Arar 19 20 doesn't want to come home, and the second is that CSIS doesn't want him back. 21 2.2 I find it, in passing, interesting watching the proceedings here. We don't believe 23 24 anything the Syrians tell us, do we? 25 We don't believe Mr. Arar really

wasn't in Syria. We don't believe that he doesn't 1 want to come home. We don't believe that he's 2 being treated specially. We don't believe this, 3 we don't believe that. 4 But, by golly, the minute they say 5 CSIS doesn't want him back, we're supposed to 6 7 believe that? Now, Mr. Commissioner, it's 8 reasonable to assume that it would be in the 9 Syrians' best interests to say CSIS doesn't want 10 11 him back. It's a way of not having to say no. 12 It's just like -- I think you can 13 also conclude that when the Syrians decided that 14 access to Mr. Arar would be through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs rather than through the Syrian 15 16 Military Intelligence, that was a way of saying 17 "No more access," because then the Syrian Military Intelligence people didn't have to say no. 18 What they could say is, "Well, I'm 19 20 sorry, you'll have to ask the folks over at Foreign Affairs." And of course the folks over at 21 22 Foreign Affairs are not going to answer. 23 But it's a way of not having to 24 say no. That's equally plausible, 25

particularly when you have the evidence of 1 2 Mr. Hooper that upon being advised that the Syrians were suggesting CSIS didn't want Mr. Arar 3 back, he asked the individuals who had been there, 4 he spoke with them, and they told him that they 5 didn't say anything that would leave the 6 7 impression that CSIS didn't want Mr. Arar back. On top of that, Mr. Graham, 8 9 immediately thereafter, telephones the Syrian Foreign Minister and tells him that if there's any 10 11 doubt, yes, Canada wants Mr. Arar back. 12 Senior Foreign Affairs officials 13 convey the same message to Mr. Arnous, the Ambassador here in Canada. 14 15 Ambassador Pillarella testified that at every opportunity he had to raise the 16 17 matter with Syrians officials, he told them Canada wants Mr. Arar back. 18 And, finally, Ms Catterall and 19 20 Mr. Assadourian, when they travelled to Syria, one of the messages they carried with them is, Canada 21 2.2 wants Mr. Arar back. 23 That was the consistent message. 24 And in my submission, if you look

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carefully at the evidence, the question about

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whether Syria is confused or mixed up or anything 1 2 really only arises one more time, and that's later That's Exhibit, I believe, P-99, and that's 3 on. when Ms Catterall has met with Ambassador 4 Assadourian here in Canada and Ms Pastyr-Lupul is 5 recording her conversation with Ms Catterall, so 6 7 it's several removed. And my recollection of that evidence is that it says, "initially the Syrians." 8 9 So, again, the discussion is in 10 the context of at some point the Syrians may have 11 had some confusion, either genuine confusion or confusion that they just found it convenient to 12 13 put forward. 14 So at the end of the day, sir, I think it's very difficult to conclude that anybody 15 from CSIS said anything to the Syrians, that we 16 didn't want Mr. Arar back. 17 Similarly -- I won't spend a lot 18 of time on the Hooper-McCallion telephone call --19 20 but, again, you heard what Mr. Hooper said he said, you heard what Ms McCallion said about the 21 2.2 conversation. The evidence about what that 23 24 conversation involved comes from the two 25 individuals who were engaged in that conversation,

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and I would urge you to disregard the evidence of 1 2 Mr. Gould and Mr. Dyet -- not disregard it in the sense that they were lying or not telling the 3 truth, but they quite candidly said, "We were 4 recording what we thought the conversation was 5 about." And you have before you the evidence of 6 7 the only two individuals who were on the conversation and what they had to say about it. 8 9 I would like to say one more point about that conversation, though, because that 10 11 conversation, as Mr. Hooper indicated and as Ms McCallion indicated, was an attempt on their part 12 13 to come to grips with what is obviously a very 14 difficult issue, and that is, Canada's approach to consular cases that have a -- well, I suppose 15 there's three elements: there is a consular 16 17 element; there is a high-profile element; and there is a security-related element. 18 And indeed the Department of 19 20 Foreign Affairs has undertaken a number of initiatives, which really started with what we 21 2.2 have called the deck that Mr. Pardy prepared and the briefing note that he sent up to the Minister. 23 24 There has since been the review of

consular activities. And I know that the

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Department of Foreign Affairs and the government 1 2 generally would welcome any observations you have as a result of this inquiry which would assist in 3 developing, again, some guidelines, some criteria, 4 some benchmarks that can be usefully applied by 5 consular officials and others when deciding how 6 7 best to deal with these cases, and they are very difficult cases. 8 9 There aren't a lot of them, but 10 they probably consume far more energy than any 11 other case. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: They do. Ι 13 noted very helpfully you set out in your written 14 submissions, I just don't have my finger on it, the various actions that the Government has taken 15 16 since this matter arose, and I take it that is a 17 complete list --MS McISAAC: It's those that are 18 at a point where that are worth talking about. 19 20 Some of them actually would have preceded this. I mean, there are other issues 21 22 that actually may have been commenced before the 23 Arar case and don't arise directly because of

24 Mr. Arar's circumstances.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Right.

But do address some 1 MS McISAAC: of the issues that arise. And that's in the 2 overview document. 3 4 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Thank 5 you. MS MCISAAC: Two more points. 6 Ι 7 don't know how I'm doing for time. THE COMMISSIONER: You're fine. 8 9 MS McISAAC: Okay. I think maybe I won't use all my time then, sir. 10 11 Firstly, the telephone -- pardon me, not the telephone, the meeting that Mr. Martel 12 13 had with Mr. Arar in August, August the 14th, and 14 I would agree with my friend that you have not heard what Mr. Arar had to say about that meeting, 15 and it would be not only unwise, but, I think you 16 17 would agree with me, improper, to draw any particular conclusions about who said what, when, 18 why, during the course of that meeting without 19 20 hearing all of the evidence with respect to it. THE COMMISSIONER: Would it not be 21 22 appropriate, though, for me to comment, accepting what Mr. Martel has said in his examination in 23 24 total, recognizing that there may be other things 25 that Mr. Arar will say about it, but if I had any

observations that I thought were worth making, 1 that I could -- I could take the record as I have 2 it before me rather than simply ignoring it. 3 MS McISAAC: No, I'm not 4 suggesting you ignore it. 5 For instance, I think Mr. Martel, 6 7 for instance, quite candidly conceded that if he had that report to write again, he would have put 8 9 something in about the size of the cell. So there are elements of his 10 11 discussions with Mr. Arar in his reporting that I would think you could probably comment on, but 12 13 there are other aspects of it where, to the extent 14 there seems to be disagreement with what we understand Mr. Arar will say, both about that 15 meeting and their flight home, then I agree with 16 my friend, that you really don't have all the 17 evidence necessary --18 THE COMMISSIONER: And I agree 19 20 with that. And what I wouldn't do is, I wouldn't deal with it in a way that, of course, to set out 21 2.2 Mr. Arar's version. I would make it clear. 23 But if I do -- I'm repeating --24 but if I do have observations on the basis of the evidence before me, or if I can anticipate or can 25

glean that what I've heard coincides with what 1 2 Mr. Arar's description would be, then I would be in a position to deal with it. 3 MS McISAAC: Oh, I think that's 4 correct, sir, yes. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. So that I 6 7 think, as I took Ms Edwardh's point, it was simply if I'm alerted, and I think I will know the 8 9 evidence well enough, that there's an area where Mr. Arar may disagree with what somebody said, 10 then I should be careful not to dismiss that 11 12 disagreement. 13 MS McISAAC: And I hope I wasn't 14 saying anything more than that. 15 THE COMMISSIONER: And I don't think you were. 16 17 MS McISAAC: All right. 18 THE COMMISSIONER: It's important from my standpoint, as I sit down to write this, 19 20 that I know that. On that phone conversation -- or 21 22 on that consular meeting, can you comment on the rebut torture issue? I mean, it strikes me that 23 24 that's not -- I think you know what I mean --25 MS MCISAAC: Yes.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: That's not something about which Mr. Arar himself would have 2 3 any knowledge. MS McISAAC: No, and I think you 4 have got Mr. Pillarella's evidence with respect to 5 that point. I think I would say three things: 6 7 One is, first of all, it was fired off, I think, in a fair hurry, by Ambassador 8 Pillarella back to Ottawa. 9 The Ambassador has agreed that 10 "rebut" was not the most felicitous choice of 11 words on his part, and I don't know how much to 12 13 make of this, but certainly Mr. Pillarella is certainly a multilingual individual, and I don't 14 believe English is his first language, although 15 his English is obviously quite good. 16 17 So the choice of a poor word is what I would categorize that as, and that 18 essentially was his evidence, as I understood it. 19 20 I think also though, sir, what might have influenced that, and as I understand 21 2.2 what Mr. Arar has said, that the original -certainly the original allegations of the Syrian 23 24 Human Rights Committee suggested that Mr. Arar was continuing and at that very time undergoing 25

physical torture, and so there may have been --1 2 that may have played a role in terms of trying to 3 determine, based on what they were aware of and what Mr. Pardy believed at that time, whether 4 there was torture actually occurring at that 5 moment in time. 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: They didn't They hadn't seen him for three or four 8 know. 9 months. MS MCISAAC: That's correct. 10 And 11 you have the Ambassador's evidence, which is the best evidence you will have, as to why he used 12 13 that word and his agreement that it probably wasn't the best word to use. 14 15 --- Pause 16 MS McISAAC: I'm going to jump 17 back, just for a moment, because there were two concerns that I mentioned earlier that actually 18 have to do with the consular visits. 19 20 And it has to do with the question of whether a photo of Mr. Arar might be taken to 21 22 be sent back to his family and the issue of -- I believe it was Mr. Arar's relatives -- his brother 23 24 and sister-in-law? Sister and brother-in-law, who wished to visit him. 25

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1 I'm not going to go through it in great detail, but the issue of asking if a 2 photograph could be taken of Mr. Arar to send back 3 to Canada first arises on December the 9th, 4 in 2002, and it's dealt with in the document that 5 you'll find at tab 246 of the Foreign Affairs 6 7 collection of documents. If you follow through the sequence 8 9 of events, document 249 and so on, you will see that there is a concern still being expressed 10 11 about being discrete in what they asked for. 12 On December the 10th, Mr. Arar -or, pardon me, Mr. Martel reports, this is 13 document 249: "We really have to be extremely 14 15 discrete, not even willing to consider another consular staff member to visit Mr. Arar. 16 17 Questions will have to be raised with very senior people, and I'll speak to the Head of Mission." 18 I think the two points here that 19 20 are important is, first of all, that these kinds of requests -- the people who are actually at the 21 22 meetings with Mr. Martel don't seem to be in a 23 position to make decisions. So anyone who is

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going to make a decision presumably has to be at a

higher level, maybe even as high as General

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1 Khalil.

2	In December, the Head of Mission
3	reported back that apparently General Khalil had
4	been quite ill. So the whole possibility of
5	further meetings with the General is foreclosed by
6	his illness, whether real or not, we don't know.
7	
1	But on December 16th, the consular
8	people indicate back to Ottawa pardon me, 15th,
9	that they've noted the request for the photograph
10	and they'll raise the issue of a photograph. As
11	well at this time they're talking about a possible
12	visit by Ms Mazigh.
13	But as you'll recall,
14	December 16th is the point at which they start to
15	get a little nervous about their consular visits
16	because people are busy, the General is ill, and,
17	in fact, they only, I believe, have two more
18	consular visits, if I'm not mistaken, after that.
19	One in January and one in February.
20	So it's not that they refused to
21	go ahead and try to obtain a photograph. It's
22	just that they were nervous, as they were with
23	other things, in terms of whether they'd be able
24	to get the photograph.
25	And, in fact, on the 22nd of

December and on the 26th of December, they're 1 2 still reporting back that their visit cannot be 3 accommodated. So they're not even able to get 4 back in during that period of time to make 5 arrangements for a further visit with Mr. Arar. 6 7 And then the focus seems to change early in January. Rather than a photograph, the 8 suggestion from Ottawa is perhaps they could 9 arrange a telephone call. 10 11 But, again, the Ambassador reports back, and this is document 274, that he's had no 12 13 luck meeting with his usual contact. He's trying other ways to obtain consular access again, but 14 he's being thwarted at every turn. 15 16 Finally, January 7th they report 17 back that the authorities are not prepared to let Mr. Arar place or receive phone calls. 18 No outsiders, and I expect, except our current 19 20 consular access, are authorized to speak to him. So this sort of deals with this 21 22 whole attempt to try to get a photograph, to try to arrange for a phone call with Ms Mazigh. 23 And 24 the Syrians just aren't being cooperative. 25 There are attempts. And to

suggest that there were no attempts I think is 1 unfair to the evidence and to the individuals. 2 The second one has to do with the 3 visit by Mr. Arar's relatives, and you'll recall 4 that the issue for the family to get access arises 5 actually in June, towards the end of June. 6 Thev 7 have not had consular access for quite a long period of time. 8 9 So it's June. The family is trying to get access. And the Syrian authorities' 10 11 position --12 First of all, consular 13 officials -- the Embassy have been writing to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as they were 14 directed, sending diplomatic notes; getting no 15 16 response. So they're being ignored. 17 Mr. Arar's family wants them to assist in gaining access, yet the Syrian 18 authorities, if you go to the evidence, are saying 19 20 to the consular authorities, "This is to be 21 arranged through you. It's got to be arranged 2.2 through some other department." And the 23 cooperation level was zero at that point. 24 So, again, to suggest that there 25 was any animus or unwillingness to assist the

family in arranging for some kind of visit simply 1 is not a fair characterization of the evidence. 2 3 There wasn't anything that they could usefully do in order to arrange that visit because the Syrians 4 had essentially cut everything off. 5 Again, sir, if I can come back to 6 7 something I said earlier, and I can advise you, unless there is something I can assist you with, I 8 essentially am at the end of -- I am at the end of 9 my submissions. 10 11 The totality of the evidence, in my submission, for the period of time that 12 Mr. Arar was in Syria, should be summed up as 13 follows: 14 15 Canadian officials, particularly the officials at Consular Affairs Bureau in 16 17 Ottawa, Ambassador Pillarella, Mr. Martel and the staff at the Embassy in Damascus, did their very 18 best, under trying circumstances, to provide 19 20 Mr. Arar with the consular services to which he was entitled under Canadian standards. 21 2.2 They were thwarted by Mr. Arar's dual nationality. They were thwarted by the 23 24 attitude that developed in Syria. They were no doubt thwarted, or at least affected, by external 25

events: the war in Iraq; perhaps the listing of 1 2 Hezbollah as a terrorist group. But at the end of the day, they 3 acted in good faith. They made judgment calls 4 based on the best of their ability and 5 understanding of the situation, and they made 6 7 those judgment calls with Mr. Arar's best interests in mind. 8 9 And I urge you, in reviewing the evidence, sir, to keep those comments in mind. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. 12 MS McISAAC: Thank you. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 14 much, Ms McIsaac. It's been very helpful. 15 What time is it here? 16 Mr. Cavalluzzo, suggestions? 17 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Yes. Commissioner, there are some administrative 18 matters that we have to attend to, and that is, 19 20 introducing certain exhibits pursuant to your 21 ruling of September 7th. 2.2 And then after that is completed, what I recommend is, that we break for lunch and 23 reconvene at 1:45 or 2:00, at which time we will 24 hear from the amicus and then from the intervenors 25

as well as the Ottawa Police Service. 1 The OPP 2 will not be making oral submissions. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. So we can complete all that this afternoon? 4 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Yes, we can. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Would 6 7 you like to then introduce the exhibits? MR. CAVALLUZZO: In your ruling of 8 9 September 7th, based on an application of counsel for Messrs. El Maati, Almalki, and Nureddin, you 10 11 ruled that their chronologies be filed as the next 12 public exhibits in these proceedings, and that's 13 what I would intend to do at this time, initially starting with Mr. Almalki's biography. 14 15 THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 254? EXHIBIT NO. P-254: 16 17 Mr. Almalki's biography MR. CAVALLUZZO: The next will be 18 19 Mr. El Maati's biography and chronology. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: 255. EXHIBIT NO. P-255: Mr. El 21 2.2 Maati's biography and 23 chronology 24 MR. CAVALLUZZO: The next will be 25 Mr. Nureddin's chronology.

THE COMMISSIONER: 256. 1 EXHIBIT NO. P-256: 2 Mr. Nureddin's chronology 3 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Now, there are a 4 couple of final exhibits. 5 The next one relates to 6 7 documentation which counsel for Mr. El Maati gave to Commission counsel, some of it coming from 8 9 DFAIT, but should be filed as a separate exhibit but as an addendum to his chronology, as it is 10 11 quite helpful as far as his chronology is concerned, and I want to briefly take you through 12 that so counsel is aware of the relevant portions. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: 257. 14 15 EXHIBIT NO. P-257: Case notes for Mr. El Maati 16 17 (addendum to his chronology) MR. CAVALLUZZO: Just let me 18 explain to you and counsel what these documents 19 20 are. The first is a case note dated 21 22 July 17th of 2002, and what it contains is a 23 diplomatic note from Foreign Affairs to Egypt, in 24 effect looking for Mr. El Maati at that point in time, and, as we know, we did receive. 25

You'll see the diplomatic note is 1 2 set out in the bottom paragraph on the first page. You'll see there's reference to an RCMP visit, 3 presumably in the future, and in effect DFAIT is 4 asking for his whereabouts in Egypt, if he is in 5 Egypt, and obviously, the next month, as we know, 6 7 we received a consular visit on August the 12th of 2002. 8 9 The next document, the third page in, is dated November 19th, 2002, and it 10 11 represents a diplomatic note on November the 19th, and you'll see the diplomatic note on the second 12 13 page. This is an e-mail from Ms Myra 14 Pastyr-Lupul to the El Maati family, and on the 15 second page, you'll see the diplomatic note 16 17 relates to questions put forward by DFAIT on behalf of Mr. El Maati as to why he is being 18 detained and whether there are any charges 19 20 outstanding in respect of his detention. 21 The next page you will see is a 22 response from the Egyptian authorities, which is dated April 29, 2003, and they set out the 23 24 reasons, from their perspective, as to why Mr. El 25 Maati is being detained in Egypt at that time.

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1 And then if you go three pages, 2 three or four pages from there, you will see that there is a very helpful chronology of events 3 relating to Mr. El Maati, and this is a DFAIT 4 chronology, and it's quite helpful because it 5 gives Mr. El Maati's whereabouts and the efforts 6 7 on behalf of Mr. -- of DFAIT looking for Mr. El Maati, right from November 16th of 2001, when his 8 family first notified DFAIT that he was missing. 9 The relevant dates that you might 10 11 highlight in counsel's copy as well as yours is, 12 on the second page, you will see April 4th of 13 2002. You will see that that appears to be the date that the Syrians finally notified DFAIT that 14 15 Mr. El Maati was no longer in Syria. 16 July 2nd of 2002, you will see 17 that -- and we've got a copy of that -- that the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a 18 diplomatic note to Canada saying that Mr. El Maati 19 had voluntarily left Syria for Egypt. 20 July 15th of 2002 is another 21 22 diplomatic note to the Egyptians, and we have referred to that as where DFAIT is looking for his 23 24 whereabouts.

25 August 7th, 2002, appears to be

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the time at which DFAIT discovered his whereabouts 1 2 in Egypt, and consular access is requested; and as you will see, August the 12th, 2002, is the first 3 consular visit. As you know, we have a copy of 4 that report. 5 And I leave the remainder for the 6 7 reader. If you go -- there are a few other 8 9 documents that are relevant. If you go about five or six pages from there, at page 17 in the top 10 11 right-hand corner of this packet, you will see that DFAIT is asking Syria for the date upon which 12 13 Mr. El Maati left that country. 14 And then, three pages in, you will see a response from the Syrians dated July 2nd, 15 16 2002, which I referred to earlier, and that is 17 where Syria responds that he left Syria for Egypt. They don't know when or how he left. 18 The last three documents no doubt 19 20 we're all aware of, and that is, the very last 21 page of the packet is the map that has been 22 referred to, the map of the government complex with numbers on it indicating different buildings, 23 24 and the two prior pages are letters from Mr. El

25 Maati's employer, indicating, first of all, in the

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1 first one, which is dated August 27th, it relates 2 to Mr. El Maati being stopped at the Canadian border at Buffalo, and this is when the map became 3 an issue in respect of the U.S. Customs. 4 She indicates what his employment 5 history is, and in particular, in relation to that 6 7 particular truck that he was driving at that time and that the map was discovered in the cab of the 8 9 truck and what it was doing there. And then the final document, the 10 11 third page in, that's page 20, is the letter dated 12 October 15th, 2001, from the employer, once again 13 indicating that in respect of that truck, it had other drivers prior to Mr. El Maati, one of whom 14 15 lived in Ottawa and who, on occasion, delivered to buildings or whatever, customers in the Ottawa 16 17 region. And the final exhibit that we 18 would file are the Flewelling telephone records. 19 20 You may recall, in the examination of Mr. Flewelling, that we did refer to his cellular 21 22 telephone records. There were privacy concerns. 23 THE COMMISSIONER: 258. 24 EXHIBIT NO. P-258: Mr. Rick Flewelling's cellular 25

1 telephone records MR. CAVALLUZZO: Since then we 2 have taken those concerns into account and 3 redacted certain numbers. 4 So that would complete the filing 5 of the public exhibits, Mr. Commissioner. 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. That's the housekeeping. 8 9 MR. CAVALLUZZO: That completes 10 the housekeeping. 11 It is now 12:35, so I would 12 recommend that we rise until 2:00. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: Two o'clock 14 okay? Two o'clock. 15 THE REGISTRAR: Please stand. 16 --- Upon recessing at 12:34 p.m. / 17 Suspension à 12 h 34 --- Upon resuming at 2:01 p.m. / 18 Reprise à 14 h 01 19 20 THE REGISTRAR: Please be seated. 21 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Atkey? 2.2 MR. ATKEY: Thank you, Commissioner. 23 24 THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon. MR. ATKEY: Good afternoon. 25

1 SUBMISSIONS 2 MR. ATKEY: Today I want to cover three general areas in the half hour I have 3 available. 4 The first relates to ministerial 5 responsibility and the rule of law. 6 7 The second will be discussion on testing government claims to National Security 8 9 Confidentiality. And the third is outlining a list 10 11 of key issues that I believe you must decide in this inquiry from the perspective of the role I 12 13 have played as an interested observer of virtually all of the evidence adduced both in public and, of 14 course, having reviewed transcripts of evidence 15 adduced in camera. 16 17 Dealing with my first submission. This Commission has an important role in 18 redefining accountability and transparency within 19 20 DFAIT, the RCMP, and CSIS, and other agencies such as Project A-OCANADA and the Canadian Border 21 22 Security Agency. 23 It is very much -- the task facing 24 you reminds me very much of my first year as 25 chairman of SIRC 20 years ago.

1 It was a new review body 2 overseeing CSIS, a new organization which had been recommended by the Macdonald Commission. And both 3 CSIS and SIRC had growing pains at the time, 4 because they were new. 5 But as each organization 6 7 approached crises which arose, they worked out a way of accommodating each other in which 8 9 transparency and accountability became the rule rather than the exception. 10 11 And for the most part, surprises 12 were avoided and each entity grew to be more comfortable and confident and efficient in its 13 work as time progressed, and Ministers were 14 generally kept in the loop. 15 16 Now, with the intervention of the horrors of 9/11, and the unfortunate circumstances 17 like those visited on Mr. Arar, it is now time for 18 a new chapter to be written post-Macdonald, so 19 20 that Canadian officials will become more 21 transparent and accountable in performing their 22 public duties in the security intelligence field. 23 Whether it's DFAIT, the RCMP, or 24 CSIS, it's important for you, Commissioner, to lay out the benchmarks for performance evaluation of 25

1 Canadian officials tasked with protecting the security of Canadians, that which was mentioned by 2 Ms McIsaac yesterday, and at the same time 3 respecting the individual rights of Canadians and 4 others unfairly caught up in the vigorous 5 application of investigative and protective 6 7 operations. And we must, as a nation, never let the individual rights of our citizens be 8 9 sacrificed on the altar of investigative efficiency and expediency. 10 11 Protecting the security of 12 Canadians does not mean that the police, the security intelligence officers, or the Foreign 13 Affairs officers can operate as a law unto 14

themselves without keeping their superiors fully 15 16 informed and making sure that Ministers ultimately 17 responsible for these actions in Parliament know what is going on and take responsibility for these 18 actions as elected representatives of the people. 19 20 This, combined with an independent judiciary, is what the rule of law is all about, 21 2.2 and we measure our success as a nation in many

respects on how well we follow the rule of law.Commissioner, you have a unique

opportunity to write the next chapter in your

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1 report, both on this factual inquiry and on your 2 policy review. A professional colleague far 3 removed from Ottawa remarked to me the other day, 4 commenting on this Commission, that it's nice to 5 live in a country where we have a commission of 6 7 inquiry into the actions of Canadian officials in relation to an aggrieved citizen. In other 8 9 countries, this might well have been swept under 10 the rug. 11 But the opportunity is yours, 12 Commissioner, to address contemporary issues head-on and to establish benchmarks for the next 13 20 years so that all Canadians will see and 14 15 understand what went on and what should have gone 16 on. 17 Now let me move to the second part of my submission, and that's regarding the issue 18 of testing NSC claims. 19 20 I addressed this issue before you 21 in a very summary way on May 3rd, and my written 2.2 brief outlines the legal basis for challenges to 23 NSC claims both in practice and in the 24 jurisprudence. And from the outset, I have taken 25

the position that, in testing NSC claims, there 1 2 are two primary considerations here. First, the public's right to know, 3 which is inextricably linked to the freedom of 4 expression guaranteed by section 2(b) of the 5 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and 6 7 second, fairness to Mr. Arar, the very person whose situation caused this public inquiry. 8 9 Now, as stated and as noted by Ms McIsaac yesterday, there is not disagreement that 10 11 NSC involves information, the disclosure of which would cause were injury to international 12 13 relations, national defence, or national security. We all agree that the Commissioner 14 has the right under the terms of reference and the 15 16 Canada Evidence Act to engage in the balancing 17 test, to balance the public interest in disclosure against the injury to international relations, 18 national defence, and national security resulting 19 20 from disclosure. And as noted in my brief, CSIS 21 2.2 appears to have set the standard within the 23 Government of Canada for making NSC 24 determinations. And as I point out in paragraph 13 25

1 of my brief, these categories are contained in a 2 legend outlined "CSIS National Security Claims." They're well-known to all of us who are working as 3 insiders but perhaps not well-known to the public, 4 and it's in this context that I think they're 5 worth repeating for the record. 6 7 First, privilege is claimed on information which identifies or tends to identify 8 service interest in individuals, groups, or 9 issues, including the existence or absence of past 10 11 or present files of investigation or investigation, the intents of the investigations, 12 or the degree or lack of success of 13 14 investigations. 15 Two, information which tends to identify -- or tends to identify human sources of 16 17 information for the Service, or content of information provided by human source. 18 Third, information which 19 20 identifies, or tends to identify, investigative 21 techniques and methods of operation utilized by 2.2 the Service. Fourth, information that 23 24 identifies, or tends to identify, Service 25 employees or internal procedures and

administrative methodologies of the Service, such 1 2 as names and file numbers. Fifth, information which 3 identifies, or tends to identify, relationships 4 that the Service maintains with other police, 5 security, and intelligence agencies in Canada and 6 elsewhere, and would disclose information received 7 in confidence from such sources. 8 Sixth, information that reveals or 9 tends to reveal information about the 10 11 telecommunications system utilized by the Service. And seventh, information which may 12 13 jeopardize, or tend to jeopardize, essential international relations. 14 And I add on that, of course, that 15 privilege is claimed quite properly for personal 16 information on grounds of privacy and information 17 subject to a sealing order of a judge. 18 And I think that we all agree, 19 20 those of us who have worked with this Commission in various capacities, that there's nothing wrong 21 2.2 with these classifications. 23 I don't purport to argue that 24 they're illegal or wrong or misplaced. I think, as Ms McIsaac said yesterday, it's really the 25

interpretation and application of these
 classifications by government agencies, such as
 CSIS, the RCMP or DFAIT, where there has been
 disagreement.

Now, the Government's aggressive 5 approach to NSC claims that was pursued during 6 7 in-camera hearings all last winter, starting in September and going right through to the end of 8 9 April, and in the context of draft summaries that were prepared by you last fall for consideration, 10 11 this aggressive approach appears to have abated somewhat at the beginning of June 2005, as 12 13 documents previously redacted were unredacted in whole or in part during the testimony of 14 Government witnesses at public hearings in June 15 16 and July and August of this year.

17 And I note, Commissioner, with 18 congratulations, that you have encouraged Government agencies, through counsel for the 19 20 Attorney General, to unredact as much information as possible to facilitate the public portion of 21 22 the hearings process, yet preserving the Government's essential NSC claims which are truly 23 24 justifiable, that is, would, in fact, be injurious to international relations, national defence, or 25

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national security. 1 2 It's my understanding that any 3 remaining disagreements between you and counsel for the Attorney General as to specific NSC claims 4 that may relate to your interim report to the 5 Government will be the subject of NSC hearings to 6 7 be held in camera later this year. Perhaps not too long from now. 8 9 It's anticipated that I will 10 participate in these in-camera proceedings, and at 11 this stage, therefore, I think it's important to set forth the reason and the legal basis upon 12 13 which I will be making submissions to you during the in-camera proceedings, but at least for the 14 public to know the basis upon which I make my 15 16 submissions. 17 Now, first, let me outline submissions of law in relation to testing 18 Government claims to NSC. 19 20 First, the public's right to know. 21 And I refer to paragraph 17 in my written brief. 2.2 Freedom of expression and the value of openness in matters of justice and human 23 24 rights are reflected in the very existence of this Commission, as a public commission of inquiry. 25

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1	A public commission of inquiry at
2	its very essence exists to uncover and disclose
3	the truth of a particular matter, where that truth
4	is not known or available to the public.
5	The accountability of government
6	officials, including law enforcement and security
7	agencies, is self evidently a matter that pertains
8	directly to the public interest.
9	And I can't help but refer to the
10	quote, which I note is in the Government's written
11	brief, quite properly so, of the late Sam Grange,
12	when he headed the inquiry following the infant
13	deaths at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children,
14	and I quote Mr. Justice Grange. He says:
15	"I remember once thinking
16	egotistically that all the
17	evidence, all the antics, had
18	only one aim, to convince the
19	commissioner, who after all
20	eventually wrote the report,
21	but I soon discovered my
22	error. They are not just
23	inquiries, they are public
24	inquiries, and I realize that
25	there was another purpose to

1 the inquiry, just as 2 important as one man's solution to the mystery, and 3 that was to inform the 4 public. Merely presenting 5 the evidence in public, 6 7 evidence which had hitherto been given only in private, 8 9 served that purpose. The public has a special 10 11 interest, a right to know, 12 and a right to form its 13 opinions as it goes along." (As read) 14 15 And that was quoted with approval by Justice Cory in the Westray decision, Supreme 16 Court of Canada, 1995, a Justice who has made a 17 significant contribution to the concept of open 18 courts in his utterances. 19 20 There has been a line of cases in the Supreme Court and the Federal Court which 21 22 support the open court principles as one of the cornerstones of the Canadian judicial system. 23 24 The common law presumption of openness is recognized as a constitutional value, 25

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and it's protected, in my submission, by section 1 2 2(b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and 3 Freedoms. And I submit that this is a 4 presumption that extends beyond court systems to 5 pretrial stages of litigation and to commissions 6 7 of inquiry, which have a quasijudicial investigative mandate to uncover the truth 8 9 surrounding an issue of public concern. And I can't help but quote -- or 10 11 re-quote that which was put before you on May 3rd, 12 and that's from the Vancouver Sun case, the utterances of Justices Iacobucci and Arbour in the 13 Vancouver Sun case, which is 2004, and I quote: 14 15 "The open court principle has 16 long been recognized as a 17 cornerstone of the common 18 law. The right of public 19 access to the courts is one 20 of principle, turning not on convenience but on necessity. 21 2.2 Justice is not a cloistered 23 virtue, publicity is the very 24 sole of justice, it is the 25 keenest spur to exertion and

1	the surest of all guards
2	against improbity. The open
3	court principle" (As
4	read)
5	And the quote continues.
6	" is inextricably linked to
7	the freedom of expression
8	protected by section 2(b) of
9	the Charter and advances the
10	core value therein. The
11	freedom of the press to
12	report on judicial
13	proceedings is a core value.
14	Equally, the right of the
15	public to receive information
16	is also protected by the
17	constitutional guarantee of
18	freedom of expression. The
19	press plays a vital role in
20	being the conduit through
21	which the public receives
22	that information regarding
23	the operations of public
24	institutions. Consequently,
25	the open court principle, to

put it mildly, is not to be 1 2 lightly interfered with." (As read) 3 And that was just a year ago in 4 the Vancouver Sun's decision in the Supreme Court 5 of Canada. 6 7 Now, I'm not going to go through in detail the Dagenais and Menta cases. 8 They are 9 discussed in my brief at paragraphs 29 through 37. Clearly it's established the jurisprudence that 10 11 parties seeking to uphold secrecy must provide clear and convincing evidence to justify injury. 12 13 It can't be potential injury, it can't be probable injury, or can't be speculative 14 injury, it must be actual injury that would occur. 15 16 National security claims, if they 17 are to stick, must be well-grounded in the evidence. That is the challenge that will face 18 the Attorney General in NSC hearings that may be 19 20 held later. And I conclude, in paragraph 44, 21 22 Chairman, with this view of the open court 23 principle. 24 As it pertains to public commissions of inquiry, it has two elements: 25

The first is that Canadians have a 1 2 right to the greatest possible disclosure of information about the actions of Canadian public 3 officials as they pertain to a matter that bears 4 on the public interest. 5 The second is that the public 6 7 interest is best advanced through an informed public, that is, informing Canadians about the 8 9 actions of their public officials. Now I turn to the next part of my 10 11 legal submissions, that is, the question of 12 fairness to Mr. Arar. 13 Fairness is a flexible concept and 14 its content varies depending upon the nature of the inquiry and the consequences for the 15 individual involved. 16 17 Now, my brief takes you through the discussion in Baker v. Canada, the Supreme 18 Court of Canada, most recent decision, in 1999, 19 20 where they apply five factors to be considered. And I go through in my written 21 2.2 brief to discuss these five factors, being: the nature of the decision; the statutory scheme; the 23 24 importance of the decision to the individual 25 affected; the legitimate expectations of the

affected person; and the procedures of the 1 2 commission. And I conclude, and would submit 3 to you, Commissioner, that Mr. Arar is owed a 4 robust approach towards procedural fairness, and I 5 outline this in paragraphs 47 to 55 of my brief. 6 7 I strongly support the decision you made on May 12th, where you were dealing with 8 issues relating to RCMP testimony, and you said 9 this: 10 "It's worth remembering that 11 12 Mr. Arar was granted standing 13 for a reason. Clearly he has an interest in this inquiry. 14 15 He has been excluded from all 16 of the in-camera evidence, 17 although Mr. Arar's counsel have had an opportunity to 18 19 suggest questions to 20 Commission counsel to be 21 asked in camera. The value 2.2 of this opportunity is 23 somewhat diluted because 24 Mr. Arar's counsel have not 25 heard any evidence before

1 proposing questions. In my 2 view, the opportunity to hear evidence, as I envision it, 3 and to pose questions 4 5 directly, adds significant value to Mr. Arar's 6 7 participation as a party to this inquiry. Maximizing the 8 9 participation of parties is a legitimate objective when 10 considering what evidence 11 12 should be called at public hearings. Indeed, given the 13 opportunity of Mr. Arar and 14 15 other parties to question the 16 RCMP witnesses directly from 17 these parties' unique perspectives maximizes the 18 19 chance of a fuller picture 20 emerging from the inquiry." 21 (As read) 22 And, Commissioner, I agree 23 wholeheartedly with the ruling that you've made in 24 that context. 25 Now, Commissioner in my brief, I

also discuss the application of section 7 of the 1 Charter of Rights and Freedoms, guaranteeing the 2 right to principles of fundamental justice, 3 paragraphs 64 through 69. 4 The case law is complicated here, 5 but I've tried to outline the basis for 6 7 distinguishing the cases of Ruby, Chiarelli and Ribick to give Mr. Arar a basis for arguing that 8 9 his Charter rights under section 7 could be violated if there is insufficient disclosure of 10 11 NSC materials pertaining to him. 12 In conclusion, procedural fairness 13 to a person directly affected by a commission of 14 inquiry is an important element of maintaining the integrity and credibility of this Commission, 15 16 particularly when reputational interests like 17 Mr. Arar's are at stake. Yes, the reputation of CSIS, the 18 RCMP, DFAIT, and other agencies of government are 19 20 at stake in this inquiry, but they or their legal representatives have full access to NSC materials. 21 2.2 Mr. Arar and his counsel do not. Accordingly, I would argue for a 23 24 robust approach towards disclosure in applying the 25 public interest balancing test as you proceed.

The public interest inherent in 1 2 the balancing test when challenging NSC claims is not simply satisfying the public sense of 3 curiosity about the actions of Canadian officials 4 as they pertain to Mr. Arar. 5 It's the public interest in the 6 7 sense of the phrase, "the best interests of the Canadian public, " in according procedural fairness 8 9 to parties affected to maintain the integrity and credibility of this Commission. Procedural 10 11 fairness is best achieved through a robust approach to disclosure. 12 13 Now, Chairman, I propose to 14 outline for you some questions which I have come up with, which are by no means exhaustive, of 15 16 those which you will have to address in fulfilling 17 your mandate under Part 1 of this inquiry. Nevertheless, from the perspective 18 of amicus curiae, they represent the primary 19 20 questions which, in the mind of the public, should be addressed, given their focus on actions of 21 2.2 Canadian officials. There will be additional guestions 23 24 involving NSC evidence which I may file later this week in camera, and they can be dealt with at this 25

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time, but they are few in number.

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2 The first question relates to one that you raised yourself, Commissioner, following 3 your August 17th ruling this summer on motions to 4 quash that were filed by certain parties. 5 Should these rulings be made 6 7 public, with appropriate NSC redactions, it is my submission that they should be made public since 8 9 they constitute an important and precedent-setting decision related to section 13 of the Inquiries 10 11 Act, and they would be useful jurisprudence to 12 have for public consumption. 13 The next guestion I ask, when one 14 steps back and looks overall, prior to October 2002, when Mr. Arar was deported to Syria, 15 16 was there any agreement or understanding between senior Canadian and U.S. officials or Ministers 17 that there would be prior consultation prior to 18 deportation of citizens of their respective 19 20 countries to the other country or to a third 21 country? 2.2 Then I ask a question that has

22 Inen I ask a question that has 23 been the subject of much debate over the last two 24 days. At what stage should Canadian officials 25 have known, or ought to have known, that the

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1 prospect of deportation to Syria was real? 2 In this regard, I think you should consider carefully the evidence of Flewelling, 3 Girvan, Collins, Pardy, and Pastyr-Lupul. 4 If Canadian officials knew, or 5 ought to have known, of this prospect, what steps 6 7 might have been taken to forestall deportation to Syria, such as representations to appropriate U.S. 8 9 agencies, a report to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or the Solicitor General, suggesting 10 11 intervention with U.S. counterparts; perhaps a more aggressive approach by consular officials in 12 13 facilitating the hiring and directing of a U.S. lawyer; or I would even suggest media exposure 14 15 might have been helpful. 16 Next question: Was there 17 unrestricted information-sharing by the RCMP and 18 CSIS with U.S. counterparts regarding Mr. Arar, and was this done without the usual caveats? 19 20 If a caveats-down approach was 21 followed by the RCMP or CSIS, was this done by 2.2 individual officers without official direction or 23 approval from the top of respective organizations, directly or by inference? 24 25 Next question: Was the

information and intelligence on Mr. Arar passed to 1 2 foreign agencies accurate and reliable, and was it information obtained strictly in accordance with 3 policies, procedures, and protocols to be followed 4 by investigators in the investigation of Mr. Arar? 5 And I refer specifically to the 6 7 evidence of Cabana, Loeppky, Flewelling, and 8 Hooper. 9 Next question: Was there adequate supervision and control over the managers and 10 11 investigators of Project A-OCANADA in regards to their disclosure and exchange of information on 12 Mr. Arar with U.S. authorities? And was there an 13 14 inappropriate relationship between investigators of Project A-OCANADA and the CIA? 15 16 Next question: Were the managers 17 and investigators of Project A-OCANADA adequately trained and knowledgeable of the customs, mores, 18 and values of the Islamic community, to which 19 20 Mr. Arar is a member? And as a result was some of the information shared in relation to Mr. Arar 21 2.2 reliably assessed and analysed? 23 Next question, discussed today and 24 yesterday: Was there information-sharing and preparation of questions carried on with the 25

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Syrian officials by the RCMP or by CSIS without 1 2 appropriate safeguards? Did this prejudice Mr. Arar's situation unfairly? 3 Next question: Did the 4 relationship between Project A-OCANADA 5 investigators and foreign intelligence agencies 6 7 contravene the letter and spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding between the RCMP and CSIS, and 8 9 the understanding between the RCMP and the CIA that was apparently reached in 1989? 10 And then the question of the trip 11 12 to Syria by CSIS, November 2002: How did this actually affect Mr. Arar in terms of how he was 13 treated and how long he was detained? Was the 14 15 information exchanged by CSIS concerning Mr. Arar 16 prior to, during, or after this visit? Was it 17 information reliably assessed and analysed? And was it appropriate to be sharing information with 18 Syrian officials given that country's human rights 19 20 reputation? Was Mr. Arar, as a Canadian, 21 22 well-served by Canadian consular officials from DFAIT in the U.S. and in Europe, and that is in 23 24 Syria, excuse me, while he was in custody? Were his privacy rights respected, or was there any 25

inappropriate sharing of his personal information 1 2 with other Canadian and foreign officials? Next question: Did the Canadian 3 Ambassador, Mr. Pillarella, from October 2002 4 through to May 2003, act appropriately in 5 balancing Mr. Arar's situation of detention in 6 7 Syria against his close relationship with General Khalil, and particularly when it appears he 8 9 transmitted the fruits of the Syrian investigation of Arar back to Canada without indications as to 10 11 how the confessions might have been obtained and references to the track record of Syrian military 12 13 officials in engaging in abusive treatment to extract confessions? 14 15 Next question: Was there an 16 inappropriate turf war between DFAIT on the one 17 hand and CSIS and the RCMP on the other hand in coming up with suitable and timely language for 18 the Canadian government communications to the 19 20 Syrian government that Canada wanted Arar back? 21 Was this resolved through the 22 overriding intervention of the Prime Minister by his letter delivered by Senator De Bané, which 23 24 seems to have been instrumental in securing 25 Mr. Arar's release, or was the release of Mr. Arar

1 less related to the letter and perhaps more to 2 geopolitical issues -- Syria's deteriorating relationship with the U.S.? 3 Next question: Was it reasonable 4 for participants in the process, that is the 5 Syrians, the RCMP, DFAIT, and the PCO, to infer 6 7 that CSIS, by its actions and non-actions did not want Mr. Arar back in Canada in the period 8 9 November 2002 to August 2003, or should CSIS have been more forthright in stating that it wanted 10 11 Mr. Arar back in Canada? 12 And should the privy council 13 office have taken a more active coordinating role in getting DFAIT, CSIS and the RCMP to work 14 15 together in espousing Canada's interest in having 16 Mr. Arar back in Canada in the period October to 17 August? And a more difficult question for 18 you, Commissioner, is: How is torture to be 19 20 defined for purposes of this inquiry? According to this definition, or any definition you adopt, 21 22 was Mr. Arar tortured by the Americans? By the Syrians? Was his alleged confession of certain 23 24 events coerced under conditions of torture? 25 Next question: Were any or all of

DFAIT, the RCMP, CSIS, or Ambassador Pillarella 1 2 aware of the reputation and practices of Syrian Military Intelligence officials in engaging in the 3 use of torture as an investigative technique prior 4 to October 8th, 2002, when Mr. Arar was deported 5 to Syria. Prior knowledge I think becomes 6 7 relevant in the total context of things. And then more recent issues, of 8 9 course: Did Mr. Arar's relationship with Almalki or El Maati and Nureddin alone constitute grounds 10 11 for CSIS and RCMP regarding him as a person of 12 interest? 13 Were the submission of questions and information on Mr. Almalki by the RCMP to the 14 Syrian military officials, which was noted in the 15 16 Almalki chronology, which was filed as an exhibit 17 today, were these appropriate when there was a known credible risk of torture that would be used 18 by Syrian Military Intelligence authorities in 19 20 asking the questions? 21 Next question: Did the Canadian 22 consular officials in Syria appropriately report back to officials in Canada that Mr. Arar had been 23 24 physically beaten at the beginning of his detention, and that he had been detained in a 25

1 3-foot by 6-foot by 7-foot cell and forced to 2 sleep on the ground? And finally I ask the general 3 question, Commissioner, which I think you may have 4 to address in the context of this Commission: 5 Should the RCMP be engaged in security 6 7 intelligence activities at all, or should they stick to law enforcement, which they do well, 8 9 leaving security intelligence to CSIS, which was recommended by Macdonald in the '70s? 10 Did RCMP officers and/or members 11 12 of Project A-OCANADA have adequate training, policy guidance, and direction for security 13 intelligence work of the sort involved in 14 15 Mr. Arar's situation? So, Chairman, I end in conclusion 16 17 where I began, with a reference to the general 18 rather than the specific. As amicus, I am pleased to have 19 20 had an opportunity to contribute in a small way to your proceedings, and would encourage you to be 21 22 bold in the findings that you may make and the 23 public disclosure which will underpin your 24 findings that you make. And I may say in closing that I am 25

awestruck by the massive contribution made by
counsel for Mr. Arar, counsel for the Government
in respecting the very tight time lines that have
been set for preparation of written submissions,
which are very detailed, and the presentation of a
very useful oral argument. It has been a pleasure
to participate in this proceeding.

8 I also want to state for the 9 record that while I remain fiercely independent 10 from the Commission and from Commission counsel 11 and staff, I have had the utmost cooperation in 12 obtaining access to all relevant materials, all 13 relevant situations, and I have very much 14 appreciated that.

Thank you, Chairman.

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16 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 17 much, Mr. Atkey.

Let me just take a moment to thank 18 you for your presentation, and while your 19 20 participation in the inquiry doesn't finish today, it may be the end of the public participation, and 21 22 as I reflect on what you've done, I think that you've set a new standard or set of standards, 23 24 certainly, for the role that an amicus can play in a proceeding like this, and I think that will be a 25

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1 legacy I hope from this inquiry. And it's a 2 compliment to you and to Mr. Cameron, who assisted you, that you've been able to fulfil that role and 3 set that standard. So I am deeply appreciative of 4 the cooperation, the assistance from both of you. 5 MR. ATKEY: Thank you, 6 7 Commissioner. THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 8 9 much. Okay. Next is Mr. Neve? 10 11 Mr. Registrar, do you have my second book, second volume of submissions? It may 12 13 be out there. 14 Yes. Would you please -- or does someone have a copy of this for me? 15 16 I don't want to take yours, Ms 17 Edwardh. I will get one from Commission counsel. 18 You can get the other one. 19 Thank you very much. 20 Good afternoon, Mr. Neve. 21 SUBMISSIONS 2.2 MR. NEVE: Good afternoon, Mr. Commissioner. It's a pleasure to have this 23 24 opportunity to make submissions to you. I'm going to give my submissions 25

1 in two sections. 2 I'm going to begin with some opening remarks that I'm making on behalf of all 3 18 organizations that have been granted intervenor 4 status at the inquiry. 5 I'm then going to cede the 6 7 microphone to my colleague, David Crossin, who is representing the coalition of international 8 9 organisations, who has a flight to catch. So he'll go next. 10 And then I will resume with some 11 12 specific submissions on behalf of Amnesty 13 International. So for the intervenors, I'd like 14 to draw your attention to three particular issues. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Go ahead. 17 MR. NEVE: Three particular issues that we'd like to bring to your attention, and 18 these, as I would stress again, are issues which 19 20 all 18 organizations endorse and have a common 21 position. 2.2 They're all outlined in the brief 23 that we've provided in common to you, and these 24 are, firstly, concerns about pattern; secondly, 25 our recommendations regarding exoneration and

1 redress for Maher Arar; and thirdly, reinforcing 2 public engagement with the inquiry. I will begin with pattern. 3 Commissioner, you have obviously 4 heard from Amnesty International and from other 5 intervenors about this concern previously. 6 7 When the public phase of the inquiry opened in May, we urged you to mandate the 8 fact finder to look into the possibility that a 9 pattern, policy, or practice wider than Maher 10 11 Arar's case lay behind what had happened to him. 12 Just two weeks ago we urged you to accept as exhibits the documents -- which we note 13 and welcome the fact they have been filed today --14 15 but the documents that had been prepared by Mr. Almalki and Mr. El Maati outlining their cases 16 17 in considerable detail, and we did that because we felt that the information in those documents bore 18 directly on the question of pattern. 19 20 So it will certainly come as no surprise to you now to hear me submit on behalf of 21 2.2 all 18 organizations that we consider it to be of 23 the utmost importance that this issue figure 24 prominently in your deliberations and your final 25 report.

So what do we mean by "pattern" 1 2 and why is it so important and how do we propose you address it? 3 We aren't able to specify and 4 define with precision what the pattern might be. 5 In our joint brief, we have highlighted aspects of 6 7 the evidence that we believe raises concerns about the possibility of a pattern. 8 9 What we do know is that over the course of two years, four Canadian citizens, Ahmed 10 11 El Maati, Abdullah Almalki, Maher Arar, and then finally Muayyed Nureddin, all dual nationals, all 12 13 Muslim men, ended up imprisoned in Syria. One, Mr. Arar, after being 14 subjected to extraordinary rendition from the 15 Two, Mr. Almalki and Mr. El Maati 16 United States. 17 upon arrival at the airport in Damascus. And the last, Muayyed Nureddin as he crossed the border 18 from Iraq into Syria to catch a flight home to 19 20 Canada. All four had been of interest in 21 22 the course of national security investigations in Canada and Canadian law enforcement or security 23 24 officers had questioned or sought to question them 25 in the course of those investigations.

1 All four ended up spending all or 2 much of their time in detention in Syria being held in abysmal conditions in basement cells at 3 the far Palestine Branch of Syrian Military 4 Intelligence. 5 All have made detailed, we would 6 7 submit credible, allegations of torture. In some instances, severe torture over extended time. 8 You 9 will obviously be hearing more about that when you receive the report from your fact-finder, 10 11 Mr. Steven Toop(ph). 12 All allege being interrogated in ways, or about issues, or even about documents 13 14 that could only have originated with Canadian law enforcement or security sources and further allege 15 that it was their belief that there was 16 17 possibility a flow of information back and forth between Canada and Syria, both coming out of and 18 going into those interrogation sessions. 19 20 Finally, we note with interest the quote in Juliet O'Neill's infamous article from 21 2.2 the Ottawa Citizen, and we highlight this at page 9 of our brief, suggesting a perception on 23 24 the part of an unnamed security source -- we don't know who it is -- as to the possibility that there 25

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is some commonality or linkage amongst these 1 2 cases. She reports that an inquiry would 3 be especially troubling for these "security 4 sources" because it would "present a dilemma over 5 what to do about suspects who have wound up in 6 7 prison in their native countries, including Mr. Almalki. If Mr. Arar has caused such an 8 9 uproar, others may do likewise." Well, is this just a series of 10 11 remarkable tragic coincidences? Perhaps. But in our view, highly unlikely. 12 13 If not coincidence, what? A 14 policy, practice, procedure? Official, unofficial? Authorized, unauthorized? Widely 15 16 known or secret? 17 We need to know the answers to these questions. Canadians want and need to know 18 19 the answers to these questions. 20 And those answers are important 21 for two reasons: 2.2 First, because they are directly relevant to knowing and understanding what 23 24 happened to Mr. Arar. Was his case exceptional and isolated, or was it part of a pattern? 25

Secondly, the answers are 1 2 important as well because of the fundamental values and principles at stake. 3 Ever since the tragedy and horror 4 of the September the 11th terrorist attacks, the 5 world has faced a critical debate about the 6 7 relationship between security and human rights. Some governments, commentators, 8 9 some sectors of society believe and assert that the two cannot co-exist and that security trumps, 10 11 that to be truly secure we have to give up a little bit on human rights, allow a little 12 13 torture, accept some imprisonment without charge or trial, turn a blind eye to discrimination here 14 15 and there. 16 Commissioner, the intervening 17 organizations -- and I believe the majority of Canadians -- reject that assertion. We stress, in 18 keeping with international law, that human rights 19 20 violations lead only to greater insecurity, and that true, durable, sustainable security will only 21 22 be achieved by embracing human rights like never 23 before.

And we emphasize, cannot overemphasize, how important it is that Canada's

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words and Canada's deeds firmly, unequivocally 1 2 convey that message to the world: Security 3 through human rights. That is why the issue of pattern 4 is so crucial. There is much at stake here, and 5 we are counting on you in your report to shed as 6 7 much light on this as you possibly can. We know you have heard in-camera 8 evidence, and some public, on all four of these 9 men. You have received the chronologies, which, 10 11 yes, unproven as to their truth, nonetheless offer a disturbing catalogue of what is at play here. 12 13 Yesterday the government invited 14 you to reach findings on the issue of pattern on the basis of in-camera evidence you have heard. 15 We would caution you that it would 16 be clearly unfair and likely inappropriate to make 17 findings that there is no pattern on the basis of 18 in-camera evidence which none of these men have 19 20 had a chance to respond to, especially with the 21 broader contextual information they have provided 22 in their chronologies which has not yet been tested and explored and hasn't been used to test 23 24 and explore the in-camera evidence. We think the information that 25

exists, which we've outlined in greater detail in 1 our written submission, at the very least gives 2 prima facie reason to believe there may be a 3 pattern, and we urge you to reach that same 4 conclusion and to recommend a suitable further 5 independent process to examine that concern. 6 7 That could be a second phase of this inquiry. It could be the appointment of an 8 9 individual expert with a broad mandate, or some other independent, impartial, expert process. 10 11 Whatever it may be, we urge you to include this 12 recommendation in your final report. Your view on this will, we 13 believe, be determinative and decisive and without 14 15 you calling for further review of this nature, we 16 are concerned there may never be answers and 17 accountability for these other men. Let me move to the issue of 18 exoneration and redress for Mr. Arar. 19 Commissioner, the intervening 20 organizations have followed public testimony and 21 22 evidence as closely as possible in this inquiry, 23 and we all unanimously endorse the following 24 points:

First, we believe in the

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1 presumption of innocence.

2 Second, we note that after a year of this inquiry, which has, of course, taken place 3 against the backdrop of ongoing in-depth attention 4 from a number of investigative journalists, all we 5 have seen in the public domain is indication that 6 7 Mr. Arar was perhaps of interest to Canadian authorities as a witness or because of people he 8 9 knew.

We have seen no evidence linking Mr. Arar to criminal offenses, including in any way offenses related to supporting terrorism. If any other evidence does exist, it has been kept from Mr. Arar, providing him with no chance to respond and refute.

We understand, of course, the considerable responsibility that other governments also bear for what happened to Mr. Arar. The U.S., Syrian, and even Jordanian governments.

20 We also believe, however, that the 21 evidence has revealed numerous ways in which 22 Canadian action or inaction may have contributed 23 to human rights violations he experienced.

24 Given all of those concerns, we 25 submit that your report should:

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First, urge that the Government 1 2 publicly state it has no evidence linking Mr. Arar to criminal offenses, including terrorism-related 3 offenses; 4 Second, call on the Government to 5 publicly apologize to Mr. Arar; 6 7 Third, recommend that the Government award suitable compensation to Mr. Arar 8 9 and his family; and 10 Fourth, recommend that anyone who 11 has acted improperly be held accountable through relevant disciplinary or criminal proceedings. 12 Finally, Mr. Commissioner, on 13 behalf of the intervenors again let me underscore 14 the importance of public engagement with this 15 16 inquiry and with your final report. 17 The Canadian public has been deeply concerned about this case, and it's not 18 just because they have been titillated by shady 19 20 allegations of terrorism. They have been concerned because 21 22 of the fundamental principles at stake: human rights protection, the rule of law, our security 23 24 relationship with the United States, equality and tolerance for Canadian Muslims and Arabs. 25

1 There is deep public interest and 2 concern, but it has been very difficult for the public to follow and understand the inquiry. 3 Difficult because many of the issues are very 4 complex; difficult as well, of course, because of 5 the extensive amount that has taken place in 6 7 camera, away from public scrutiny. Commissioner, we know and are 8 9 confident that you will be thinking about the Canadian public and their right to know as you 10 11 prepare your final report. 12 We cannot stress how important 13 that is. Our organizations hear from the public all the time. We know their concerns and 14 15 questions, which, we would note, have only deepened now that Mr. Almalki and Mr. El Maati 16 17 have gone public with their stories. The public wants, needs, their 18 questions answered in this report. 19 20 I'm now going to turn things over to Mr. Crossin, and then I will be back afterwards 21 2.2 with some further submissions on behalf of Amnesty 23 International. 24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very

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much.

Good afternoon, Mr. Crossin. 1 2 SUBMISSIONS Good afternoon. 3 MR. CROSSIN: Mr. Commissioner, thank you very 4 much for allowing me the opportunity to appear on 5 behalf of my clients to take a few minutes this 6 7 afternoon to highlight the written material that you have received. 8 9 It is an odd experience for counsel to parachute in at the end of a case 10 11 without having participated in the proceedings or heard any of the witnesses, live at least. 12 But it 13 is a privilege to appear for this purpose, and I 14 can certainly report to you that my clients are very grateful for the opportunity to have 15 participated in the context of their intervenor 16 17 status in this inquiry, and I should tell you, and I would be remiss if I did not say to you, that 18 the written material that you have is due in large 19 part to the tremendous effort of the women and men 20 associated with those organizations that have 21 2.2 gathered together the references and propositions 23 that are contained in the written brief, and I am 24 privileged to appear on their behalf simply to 25 highlight some of those matters for you.

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They have asked me to highlight 1 2 four or five main points in the brief and ask you to consider them. 3 I do represent three 4 organizations: The Redress Trust, The Association 5 for the Prevention of Torture, and The World 6 7 Organization Against Torture. As you know, these are 8 9 international, non-governmental organizations that work throughout the world, attempting to identify 10 11 and eradicate torture and the risk of torture, and other forms of cruel and inhumane and degrading 12 13 treatment and punishment. In addition, these are organizations that will attempt to seek redress on 14 behalf of victims of torture throughout the world. 15 We have filed a written brief 16 17 addressing aspects of international law and convention, specifically relating to the issue of 18 torture in the world and its prohibition, and we 19 20 hope you find it helpful in the context of this 21 inquiry. 2.2 It is necessarily, that is the written brief, a detailed analysis of the area. 23 24 It is a complex, sometimes, compilation of international documents, conventions, and 25

1 jurisprudence, but -- although the document is 2 detailed in that analysis, it is, of necessity, general in its application. 3 Its import, in part, will be 4 determined by your findings. It may assist your 5 It may inform your findings. findings. 6 7 But that is for you to assess, having regard to all of the information before 8 9 you. Having said that, it is our 10 11 submission to you, however, that in the context of 12 this inquiry, where there appears to be cogent evidence that a Canadian citizen was taken against 13 his will to another country and then tortured or 14 abused at the hands of that State, you may find 15 that the nature and extent of the international 16 17 obligations of the Government of Canada and its officials to protect its citizens against the risk 18 of torture, you might well find it critical in 19 20 assessing the relevant circumstances for the purposes of the framework of your mandate. 21 2.2 Very briefly, I have been asked to 23 highlight the following points by way of summary 24 of the analysis that is contained in the written brief that is there for your ultimate 25

consideration. 1

2.2

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Firstly, from the point of view of 2 Canada and its international obligations, it is 3 our respectful submission that there is no grey 4 area of the law concerning the torture, or risk of 5 torture, of any Canadian citizen. 6 7 Not only is torture prohibited by specific treaties and covenants to which the 8 9 Canadian government is a party, its prohibition has achieved such international status as to be 10 11 sacrosanct. 12 And I might pause to say that the reference to those treaties and the detail of the 13 development of those treaties and the ratification 14 of those treaties are listed in detail in the 15 brief and developed -- and if you would kindly 16 17 make a note, if you would, generally between pages 4 and 14 of the written material. 18 It is what is known as a 19 20 peremptory norm in the context of international 21 law. No derogation is permissible by way of

domestic law or treaty. In 2005 that may be a self-evident 23 24 proclamation, but it has taken the international

community some decades to reach that.

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1 That is the kind of legal and 2 moral commitment that the international community, including Canada, has made, in relation to the 3 rejection of torture. 4 It is sacrosanct to the point, in 5 our submission, with perhaps particular regard to 6 7 the facts before you, that there is no room in the international context for any notion of balancing 8 9 national security interests against a citizen's right to be free from torture. 10 11 And I pause to note that the 12 Pinochet case in the House of Lords is a very 13 helpful case in that regard. It is referenced from time to time in the written brief, but at the 14 back of the brief, there is an index, and at 15 page 10 is the cite for the Pinochet case. 16 That 17 is page 10 of the index at the back of the brief. We develop in our brief, and 18 invite the Commission to consider, the extent of 19 20 those obligations, that is, the extent and application of those obligations from an 21 22 international point of view and the ramifications of those obligations in the context of the 23 24 evidence before you and the findings you may make. This includes, in our submission, 25

1 the fact, and it is our submission that there is no question, in our view, that from an 2 international point of view, the fact that the 3 Canadian government not only has legal obligations 4 to refrain from carrying out acts of torture but 5 international law has imposed on Canada -- and 6 7 Canada has accepted -- a positive obligation to prevent, as well as punish and redress, acts of 8 9 torture, and that primarily arises from the Convention Against Torture, the U.N. Treaty, and 10 11 if you would kindly make a note, at page 14 of the brief is where we develop that. 12

13 How these obligations might be 14 relevant and helpful to you will depend upon your findings, they may assist your findings, and the 15 nature of those obligations and how Canada's 16 17 international obligations may inform and assist this Commission are generally developed -- if I 18 could ask you again to make a note -- between 19 20 pages 21 and 29 of our brief.

By way of example, and I appreciate that the factual foundation is a live issue at this inquiry. I don't know that, but I assume that. If you were to conclude, as an example, Canadian officials in any way endorsed,

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or acquiesced in, or substantially contributed to 1 2 the decision of the United States to send Mr. Arar to Syria, where there was a real and substantial 3 risk of torture, such conduct, in our submission, 4 would constitute a breach and violation of 5 Canada's obligations to prevent torture. 6 7 If, for example, you find Canadian officials sent information to Syria for use in an 8 interrogation by Syrian officials, either pursuant 9 10 to an intelligence-gathering protocol or 11 otherwise, again, in circumstances where you found there was a real and substantial risk of torture, 12 13 Canada may be in violation of its international 14 obligations. 15 In other words, in our submission, there is an issue of knowledge and constructive 16 17 knowledge at play. To put it in a very pedestrian way, if the government or its officials knew or 18 ought to have known the circumstances of Mr. Arar, 19 20 to send information to the Syrian government for 21 such use in those circumstances, one can see not 22 only legally, but logically, completely undermines, indeed contradicts, Canada's 23 24 obligations to protect Mr. Arar from torture or the risk of torture. 25

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By way of example, we submit that 1 2 there ought not to be any justification for the Government of Canada or its officials to receive 3 and use information gained as a result of torture 4 and/or abuse. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Let me just ask 6 7 you the question: You would submit then that Canada's obligations under these treaties would be 8 9 such, first of all, if they knew that some information was obtained by torture, they 10 11 shouldn't receive or use it. 12 What if they just knew information 13 may have been or there was a risk that it was, it 14 came from a regime with a questionable record? 15 MR. CROSSIN: The submission we make to you is that there must be issues of 16 17 constructive knowledge at play, and depending on the circumstances -- you have used the word 18 "risk", and you have used the word "might", but if 19 20 in all the circumstances, absent actual knowledge, 21 they ought to have known in the circumstances, on 22 any reasonable view of those facts, that this

23 information was coming from a source that has 24 utilized torture, or the risk of torture, to a 25 detainee in Mr. Arar's circumstances, then, in my

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respectful submission, it would be a reasonable 1 2 conclusion that they would be in violation of their international obligations. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: And the way 4 they would avoid being in violation of those 5 obligations would be not to accept, not to receive 6 7 the information, or not to make use of it, or ... MR. CROSSIN: Well, the first step 8 9 would be to appreciate the circumstances when the offer is made and make a decision in accordance 10 11 with their obligations. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: And if they had 13 the constructive knowledge you refer to -- and I'm speaking hypothetical --14 15 MR. CROSSIN: They would reject 16 it. 17 THE COMMISSIONER: They would reject the information. 18 19 MR. CROSSIN: They must. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: They must reject the information. And you would say that 21 2.2 flows from international law and our commitments under treaties? 23 24 MR. CROSSIN: Absolutely. And the starting point is Article 15 of the Convention 25

Against Torture, which is a prohibition against 1 2 the use of any information obtained by torture as evidence in any proceeding. Now, that's almost a 3 mundane proposition to state, but the submission 4 is that the effect of the obligations of Canada in 5 terms of being party to any number of conventions 6 7 and treaties, as they have evolved, would be that it would be their obligation not to take that 8 9 information at all.

In the international context, in 10 11 terms of the evolution of treaty obligations, countries like Canada have been suspicious of the 12 notion of creating a shield of national interest 13 in relation to torture, and the fundamental 14 proposition is that the recognition of the 15 16 repugnance of torture includes resisting its 17 fruits, regardless of motive.

My clients are, as well, keenly 18 interested in some of the evidence that has come 19 20 out concerning what might be interpreted as a lack of training or expertise in Canadian officials 21 22 concerning detection and assessment of the fact or 23 prospect of torture, and they do want me to 24 highlight for Your Lordship, it's at page 28 of our brief, beginning at paragraph 83, and in 25

1 particular, paragraph 85. "One of the most important 2 duties of consular officials 3 is to visit persons who are 4 5 deprived of liberty, particularly by arrest, 6 7 detention, or imprisonment in a foreign State. Education 8 9 and information about the detection and assessment of 10 the treatment of detainees 11 12 through visits to places of detention is required by 13 Article 10 of the Convention 14 15 Against Torture. For a 16 broader group of public officials, including those 17 involved in law enforcement, 18 19 such as the RCMP and other 20 relevant public officials, 21 such as CSIS, the State 2.2 should at least provide 23 education and information 24 about the nature and scope of 25 the prohibition of torture

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1	and all other forms of cruel,
2	inhumane, or degrading
3	treatment or punishment."
4	And we make recommendations in
5	that regard and cite what we believe would be some
6	relevant evidence for your consideration in terms
7	of making any recommendations you feel are
8	appropriate. As an example, if I could take you
9	to paragraph 87, at page 30:
10	"It would appear that Canada
11	did not provide adequate
12	education or training on
13	torture and other
14	ill-treatment to its consular
15	officials, RCMP, and CSIS
16	staff and other government
17	officials. Officials
18	apparently did not bring
19	adequate special knowledge or
20	technical capacity to bear on
21	either the law concerning
22	torture and other forms of
23	ill-treatment, the ability to
24	assess an individual's
25	treatment while in custody,

1 or appropriate interviewing 2 and visiting techniques for persons deprived of liberty. 3 Mr. Martel testified that he 4 5 had received no training whatever in recognizing 6 7 torture, abusive treatment, or inhumane prison 8 9 conditions." So we set out some 10 11 recommendations, and we hope they are of 12 assistance to you. The final area that we would like 13 to highlight begins at page 33, and it is our 14 15 views, and analysis, and recommendations of the 16 oversight body. It begins, and I'll just read the 17 opening paragraph: "A range of international 18 19 standards binding on Canada 20 should be taken into 21 consideration in determining 2.2 an appropriate model for an 23 independent arm's length 24 review body. Independent review mechanisms are not 25

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1 only national responses to 2 the perceived inefficiencies of internal control 3 mechanisms and a means to 4 ensure democratic 5 accountability and to 6 7 safeguard constitutional rights, they also constitute 8 9 one type of mechanism through which states can fulfil their 10 11 obligations under 12 international human rights 13 law." And that goes through to page 47, 14 15 and we leave you with those submissions and 16 suggestions. The detail is there, and they stand 17 on their own. In our submission, they are balanced and fair-minded recommendations that you 18 19 may very well find helpful. 20 Those are my submissions. THE COMMISSIONER: Well, thank you 21 22 very much. Let me just express my appreciation for the work that obviously went into the written 23 24 presentation, followed up by the oral 25 presentation.

1 MR. CROSSIN: Thank you. 2 THE COMMISSIONER: Just reading 3 that material makes it clear that there was a good deal of thought and effort and expertise, and I 4 appreciate that very much, and thank you for 5 coming from Vancouver. Safe trip home. 6 7 MR. CROSSIN: Thank you. THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Neve? 8 9 MR. NEVE: Yes. I'm back. 10 THE COMMISSIONER: You're back. 11 SUBMISSIONS I will now, as I said 12 MR. NEVE: 13 earlier, be presenting some additional points 14 which are specifically on behalf of Amnesty International, and these are in four areas: 15 The global context to this inquiry, National Security 16 17 Confidentiality issues, torture, and publicity. Beginning with global context. 18 Ι 19 already earlier spoke about the global debate 20 about security and human rights in discussing our concerns about pattern. 21 2.2 Commissioner, I'd just like to underscore that that global context is a 23 24 profoundly important backdrop to your work, and 25 that your work can, in our view, make a powerful

1 contribution to reminding the international 2 community that there is and can be no trade-off 3 between security and human rights, and as such, we recommend that you firmly anchor your analysis of 4 this case in an international human rights 5 framework, and that you stress that at all times 6 7 and in all ways Canada's counter-terrorism laws, policies, and practices must be consistent with 8 9 this nation's international human rights 10 obligations. 11 Secondly, a word about National 12 Security Confidentiality. Amnesty made detailed 13 submissions to you at the outset of the inquiry 14 outlining the applicable standards under international human rights law that we believe 15 16 should govern your assessment of national security 17 claims, and we've repeated some of that in our

18 closing written brief to you.

19 I'd like to just quickly stress20 three main points here.

The first is that we have been concerned, as have a number of intervening organizations, I believe, through some of the brief glimpses we have had of what lies behind redaction, that some of the claims appear to be

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overly broad and inappropriate. One alarming 1 example which we've cited in our brief was the 2 redaction in one memo of words describing the fact 3 that during his first consular visit, Mr. Arar's 4 "answers were dictated in Arabic by the Syrians." 5 With respect, Mr. Commissioner, no 6 7 Canadian would remotely agree that those words give rise to national security concerns, and this 8 9 leaves us lacking confidence as to what else lies behind some of the redactions. 10 11 It leads to our second point here, which is the term "international relations." 12 International relations is, we believe, used often 13 to justify confidentiality, that likely -- we 14 don't know for sure -- that likely is the argument 15 that perhaps was made about the example I have 16 17 just provided, for instance, that that would somehow be embarrassing to the Syrians and 18 therefore damaging of our international relations 19 20 with the Syrians. But, Commissioner, I would like to 21 22 stress that international human rights law does not recognize international relations in itself as 23 24 grounds for closing judicial processes to the

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public. We urge you, therefore, to interpret the

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term "international relations" narrowly, and only 1 2 to allow it to stand as grounds for national security confidentiality when it relates to other 3 relevant grounds, such as a threat of use of force 4 against another nation. 5 And then thirdly, on National 6 7 Security Confidentiality more broadly, let me conclude by urging that your rulings in this area 8 9 be narrowly confined to instances where there are obvious concerns which clearly bear on national 10 11 security and that you maximize public disclosure as fully as you can. 12 13 The next area I would like to 14 cover, Commissioner, is the issue of torture. 15 There have obviously been many, many human rights issues that have arisen in this 16 17 case, but none perhaps as centrally and dramatically, though, as the issue of torture. 18 We're not in a position of being able to reach 19 20 firm, factual conclusions as to many of the issues that arise here. Much of the evidence is simply 21 2.2 not available to us. However, what we have seen leads us to make a number of recommendations which 23 24 we believe are necessary, firstly, to guard 25 against instances where actions or omissions on

the part of Canadian officials, either 1 2 intentionally with wilful blindness, or 3 negligently, expose a Canadian citizen or, we would add, a non-citizen -- this is a universal 4 right obviously -- to a risk of torture; and 5 secondly recommendations necessary to strengthen 6 7 the capacity of Canadian officials to protect Canadians detained abroad from the risk of 8 9 torture. The starting point here, 10 11 obviously, must be the overarching principle that we have to reject the notion that there is any 12 sort of moral debate, any possibility of a 13 trade-off about torture. As you have just heard, 14 international law here is absolutely 15 16 crystal-clear, the prohibition on torture is 17 absolute, without exception, unequivocal, and for

18 very good reasons.

We've outlined a number of 19 20 recommendations, beginning at page 15 of our brief, which we believe would go some way to 21 22 addressing the two points I just raised: Guarding against instances where action or inaction may 23 24 contribute to torture and strengthening the capacity of Canadian officials to protect. I'm 25

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1 not going to read them, but I'd just like to 2 briefly highlight them. The first, we believe that human 3 rights protocols should be developed and should be 4 integrated into the information sharing agreements 5 and arrangements that Canada has with other 6 7 governments. Secondly, we think that the 8 9 Criminal Code should be amended to prohibit any action or omission by any person, including 10 11 government officials, that exposes any person to a 12 risk of torture. We believe that's already clear 13 in the prohibition that exists on torture in the 14 Criminal Code, but the experience around this case 15 and some of the concerns that have come to light 16 suggest that there may be room for specificity in 17 Canadian law that makes it clear how broadly that 18 obligation to oppose torture extends. 19 Next, we think there's also a need 20 for law reform which clarifies that any information likely obtained under torture, 21 2.2 domestically or abroad, will not in any way be 23 used in the course of investigations or judicial 24 proceedings. As you've just heard, we would 25

agree with the submission that international law is already very clear on this point, and Canadian law should be amended to make it clear that practice, law, and procedure here will be in keeping with that international standard.

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Next, we think that the Government 6 7 needs to establish clearer political authority and central coordination for cases of Canadians 8 9 imprisoned abroad. We've suggested the role of the parliamentary secretary for Canadians abroad 10 11 as one option. But in instances where there is 12 concern about serious human rights violations, I think this case demonstrates the fact that there 13 can be discordance, disagreements, and that there 14 15 needs to be greater mechanisms put in place to 16 quard against that. And that when disputes arise 17 around strategies and action in cases involving Canadians abroad with serious human rights 18 concerns, those disputes need to go quickly and 19 20 urgently to the Prime Minister for resolution and cannot be allowed to linger within government for 21 22 days, weeks, or even months, while the safety of a Canadian citizen stands in the balance. 23

We think that there is a need to review the training and continuing education in

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1 the area of human rights provided to all diplomatic staff, including ambassadors. We think 2 there's also a need for expert training on 3 interviewing to detect torture, especially 4 interviewing in difficult instances abroad where 5 private visits are perhaps not easily obtainable, 6 7 and that an expert team should be set up for advice and urgent deployment, as necessary. 8 9 Next, we think that there should be a Canadian policy whereby consular officers 10 11 press for the full range of rights of Canadian detainees, legal access, medical attention, 12 13 private consular visits -- be they dual nationals or not -- be pressed with detaining authorities. 14 How actively, aggressively, publicly or privately 15 will differ from circumstance to circumstance 16 17 depending upon strategic considerations, but we think it's absolutely vital that Canadian 18 officials always go on the record with detaining 19 20 authorities with the expectation as to the range of rights that they expect and demand be 21 22 protected. 23 Next, in carrying out visits,

24 consular visits, we had some concern that it
 25 seemed that perhaps sometimes the standard that is

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used in assessing the treatment of Canadian 1 2 detainees is whether they are being treated any worse than other detainees, and as long as there 3 is equal treatment, that there may not be room for 4 concern. We think it's critical that it be made 5 absolutely clear to consular officials that regard 6 7 for international human rights obligations has to be the applicable standard. 8 9 We think a policy and practice 10 needs to be developed within government in dealing with cases of Canadian citizens that have been 11 subjected to torture abroad, and let's hope that 12 13 the cases are not frequent, but that upon their release there be an immediate referral of that 14 individual for medical and psychological 15 16 treatment. 17 And then lastly, two 18 recommendations which are perhaps a bit broader. The first is, we think there's a long overdue need 19 20 to amend Canada's State Immunity Act which 21 currently stands in the way of individuals such as 22 Mr. Arar, Mr. Almalki, Mr. El Maati, Mr. Nureddin

23 being able to use the Canadian court system to sue 24 their foreign tortures and captors for redress and 25 compensation. We think there's a long overdue

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need for that Act to be amended to make it clear 1 that when instances like torture, crimes against 2 humanity, and war crimes are on the table there's 3 no place for State immunity in Canada's courts. 4 And lastly, there's an 5 international instrument which Canada needs to 6 7 ratify. This is the optional protocol to the U.N. Convention Against Torture, a powerful and new 8 9 international treaty which aims to establish a global inspection team that would carry out 10 11 ongoing, unannounced investigations of places of detention abroad, with an eye to identifying the 12 13 signs of torture and doing everything possible to prevent and avoid torture. Something which 14 15 ultimately could be of great benefit to individuals detained in countries like Syria, and 16 17 Canadian ratification of that instrument I think 18 would be an important nod to what has happened to Mr. Arar and others, and an indication that 19 20 Canada's prepared to be part of an international effort to strengthen mechanisms to avoid that 21 22 happening in the future. The last area I would like to 23 24 canvass is the issue of publicity and its role in 25 Mr. Arar's release.

1 The question has often come up 2 throughout -- even before this inquiry began but throughout the inquiry as well: Did publicity 3 help secure his release? What is the role of 4 5 publicity? Certainly throughout Mr. Arar's 6 7 detention, Ms Mazigh was faced with this challenge and was often urged by government, and even by 8 9 others, not to seek publicity, warned that that might undermine efforts to free her husband, and 10 that's something that we know that other 11 relatives, detained in Syria and elsewhere, hear 12 13 frequently from government and others: Stay quiet. Publicity will hurt. 14 15 Well, Amnesty International is an 16 organization with over 40 years of experience 17 campaigning to free unjustly imprisoned individuals around the world, including in Syria. 18 Sometimes we do that very publicly. Sometimes 19 wholly behind the scenes. Sometimes it is a 20 mixture. And that, I believe, is the key point 21 22 here. One strategy, one approach, does not fit 23 all situations. Public or private, that 24 assessment differs from country to country, within a country, it differs from case to case. 25 With

respect to a particular case, it differs from time 1 to time. Sometimes there will be a need to be 2 very public. Sometimes there will be a need to be 3 very private. Sometimes very aggressive, 4 sometimes very conciliatory. But we firmly reject 5 any assertion that there should be an absolute 6 7 position that publicity hurts and is never the best strategy. That's a view that throughout work 8 9 on any case needs to be continuously assessed and revised. 10

11 And I must stress here that 12 regardless of whether the considerable media and other public attention Mr. Arar's case received 13 influenced Syrians directly or not to free him, 14 15 there is very little doubt that growing public profile of this case here in Canada pushed it to 16 17 higher and higher levels within the Canadian government. It's doubtful that it would have 18 received the attention it did: Minister Graham's 19 20 involvement, MP visits, a letter from the Prime Minister, Senator De Bané's mission, if there had 21 22 not been that degree of publicity and pressure, and all of that almost certainly ultimately did 23 24 make some contribution to Mr. Arar's release. And let's not forget as well that 25

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other Canadian detainees in Syria have had a very 1 2 different experience. Very little publicity of 3 their cases. Much less high-level Canadian political attention. Longer in jail. 4 I think the point here is that 5 publicity plays out in very different ways, and we 6 7 certainly urge you, Mr. Commissioner, to reject any assertion that publicity can never help. 8 9 Those are the end of my submissions. I guess I'd just like to end by 10 11 saying two quick things. 12 The first, that it is -- that 13 there are crucial human rights issues that are at 14 stake in this case and your recommendations will have important significance, both nationally and 15 16 internationally. 17 And the second is to acknowledge that we know that this inquiry has been complex, 18 the territory largely uncharted. Certainly the 19 procedures that have had to be devised and been 20 difficult and sometimes cumbersome, but Amnesty 21 2.2 International would like to highlight that we have very much appreciated your thoughtful and 23 24 principled approach to dealing with this case and 25 we certainly wish you very well in your

1 deliberations.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 3 much, Mr. Neve. Let me here express my thanks to Amnesty, and to yourself and those that have 4 worked with you. I know that you've followed the 5 inquiry closely. You've assisted the process 6 7 whenever you've been asked to do so and given the opportunity, and I genuinely appreciate the 8 9 substance of your help and the cooperation with 10 the inquiry. Thank you very much. 11 MR. NEVE: Thank you. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Cavalluzzo, 13 should we carry on? You know the schedule. MR. CAVALLUZZO: Yes. We're 14 running a wee bit late, but this may be an 15 16 appropriate time to break and I'll speak with the 17 remainder --18 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. We'll take a 10-minute break. 19 20 THE REGISTRAR: Please stand. 21 --- Upon recessing at 3:26 p.m. / 2.2 Suspension à 15 h 26 23 --- Upon resuming at 3:39 p.m. / 24 Reprise à 15 h 39 25 THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon,

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Mr. Saloojee. 1 2 SUBMISSIONS 3 MR. SALOOJEE: Good afternoon, Mr. Commissioner. 4 I will be representing CAIR-CAN 5 and CAIR-CAF before you today in my oral 6 7 submissions. The primary concern for both of 8 our organisations as intervenors in this inquiry 9 has been the extent to which the ordeal suffered 10 11 by Mr. Arar occurred as a result of his dual identity as both a Muslim and also as an Arab, and 12 in addition to this, Mr. Arar's case seemed to us 13 to typify five broad concerns that have confronted 14 Canadian Arabs and Muslims post 9/11. 15 The first concern is the 16 17 stigmatization of Canadian Muslims and Arabs as terrorists, or as having terrorist links; 18 secondly, the operational methods of RCMP and CSIS 19 20 and the existence of racial profiling; third, the lack of education and cultural sensitivity on the 21 22 part of security agencies; fourth, the procedure and accountability of security investigations; and 23 24 lastly, the erosion of fundamental rights during these investigations. 25

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1 There has also been a sixth 2 concern arising from the recent allegations by Mr. Abdullah Almalki, Mr. Mohammed El Maati, and 3 Mr. Muayyed Nureddin. Taken together, we are 4 concerned that the cases raise the alarming 5 possibility that Canadian security agencies may 6 7 have been complicit in working closely with foreign agencies to detain and interrogate these 8 9 individuals. 10 In my arguments today, I will 11 briefly explore these six themes, and I will make reference to the evidence very generally. The 12 specifics of that are included in our written 13 submission to you. 14 15 Regarding the first issue, which is the stigmatization of individuals as 16 17 terrorists. Since 9/11, there has been a 18 litany of cases of Canadian Muslims and Arabs that 19 20 have been stigmatized and then subsequently vindicated, and in all of those cases there have 21 22 been a great, often irreparable, loss to the 23 individual concerned, his life, his family, and 24 his livelihood. All of these cases are a matter 25 of public record. Liban Hussein, Ahmed Shahab,

1 Mohammed Attiya, and the 22 Pakistanis caught in "Operation Thread", only to name a few. 2 Sometimes individuals obtained 3 legal redress, but in most cases, they didn't. 4 Mr. Arar's case is significant 5 because most Canadian Muslims and Arabs live in 6 7 his shadow. They fear that what happened to Mr. Arar may happen to them, and indeed the mere 8 suggestion that an individual is a terrorist or 9 has terrorist ties is akin in stigma to naming 10 11 someone a pedophile or a serial killer. Post 12 facto vindication can never fully restore a lost life. 13 The cases I mentioned earlier 14 raise concerns regarding the standards by which 15 16 people are investigated, either as suspects or 17 persons of interest. Now, because of national security, these standards are never fully 18 revealed, but in this case, I would submit that 19 20 you have the unique ability to scrutinize these standards. 21 2.2 In Mr. Arar's case, the facts disclosed that he came to the attention of the 23 24 RCMP only after meeting Mr. Almalki, that he was never the primary target of the investigation, and 25

1 that he was merely a person of interest or a 2 potential witness. Notwithstanding all of these 3 protestations that Mr. Arar was only peripheral, 4 the interest in him by security agencies 5 throughout his ordeal seems to belie that 6 7 conclusion. Mr. Arar's case is a case of what appears to be cognitive dissonance. He was not 8 9 central to the investigation, nor is there any evidence of any terrorist affiliations, but 10 11 security agencies spared no effort in 12 investigating him and pursuing him for 13 information. We would ask you, in our 14 15 recommendation, that the Government issue a clear public statement indicating that there is no 16 evidence to link Mr. Arar to terrorist offences 17 and that he is, given the evidence presented so 18 far, innocent of any such charges. 19 20 We would also invite you, from 21 your bully pulpit, to speak more generally to the 2.2 issue of a government responsibility in issuing such statements when others are stigmatized as 23 24 terrorists or as having terrorist links. In all of the cases that I know there were no such 25

pronouncements, or no such clarifications, though
 they were in many cases requested from the
 Government.

We would further ask you to 4 scrutinize whether Mr. Arar was indeed a person of 5 interest, as our security agencies have claimed. 6 7 In many of the other cases as well, our agencies claim that the individual is only a witness or 8 9 only a potential person -- a person of interest, so we'd like you to scrutinize that claim, and if 10 11 there is enough evidence for this assertion, to prove whether there was enough evidence to justify 12 13 treating him as a person of interest and to justify their continued interest in him. 14

15 Turning now to the second issue, 16 which is operational methods and racial profiling. 17 We presented a survey to you and to the Commission entitled "Presumption of Guilt," in which we 18 scrutinized the operational methods of the RCMP 19 20 and CSIS. We found that 8 percent of those individuals who were surveyed, and it was a 21 22 national survey, were visited by Canadian security 23 agencies, and within that sample, we notice a 24 number of very troubling and discernible trends. 25 Individuals were frequently and

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actively dissuaded from having a lawyer present, 1 2 they were regularly visited at their places of 3 work, there were numerous cases where they were given incorrect and improper documentation, there 4 were instances of irrelevant and intrusive 5 questioning, scare tactics, and individuals who 6 7 were asked to become informants, sometimes through intimidation. 8 9 Clearly we don't have access to

the full evidentiary record in the case of 10 11 Mr. Arar and the operational tactics used, but there is reason for concern. The RCMP obtained 12 13 Mr. Arar's lease without a warrant, passed information to the U.S. in contravention of its 14 protocols, and sent questions to the U.S. while 15 Mr. Arar was in detention and had no access to a 16 17 lawyer.

18 Is there any reason to believe that racial profiling was at play? Superintendent 19 20 Cabana testified that, "Whether a criminal offence 21 was committed by somebody from the Muslim 2.2 community, Chinese community, or a Canadian community, it really didn't make a difference." 23 24 Was Superintendent Cabana's differentiation of Muslims and Chinese from 25

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Canadians in general an oversight, or was it 1 2 something else? We would ask you to determine whether the investigation of Mr. Arar was driven 3 by, or was the result of, in whole or in part, 4 Mr. Arar's faith or his ethnicity. 5 I would like to turn now to the 6 7 issue of lack of training and awareness. Since 9/11, there's been a 8 9 heightened scrutiny of Arabs and Muslims. Typically the scrutiny in the media took the form 10 11 of a number of mythologies. Foremost among them was the idea that Muslims and Arabs were a marshal 12 13 people, inherently violent or militaristic, that their values were anathema to our values, and that 14 they could never be true Canadians or demonstrate 15 16 the requisite patriotism. And many Canadian 17 Muslims and Arabs found themselves portrayed as a fifth column. 18 The implications for these myths 19 20 are critical for those sworn to protect the safety and security of Canada. Our agents and our 21 22 officers do not operate in a social vacuum. There is a dynamic relationship between the perception 23 24 of threat and the investigation of that threat, and the perception of threat is itself conditioned 25

1 by biases, lack of information, and/or cultural 2 illiteracy. The interaction between the 3 community and between security agencies has been 4 very deficient. Outreach efforts have been few 5 Training has been piecemeal. and far between. 6 7 And education has been sporadic, at best. Security threats are best 8 9 investigated with intelligent detective work that presumes and even demands solid community 10 11 networks. Communities who perceive themselves at the investigative end as being persons of interest 12 13 cannot be effective partners in the legitimate quest to make Canada safer and more secure. 14 The public hearings have disclosed that since 9/11, 15 16 our security agencies were jolted with a sense of 17 urgency. Borders came down, it was testified, and all officials were told to pull out all the stops. 18 The RCMP was ill-prepared, said the Garvie report, 19 20 to carry out security investigations, training was lacking in general, and in specific, training 21 2.2 about the Arab-Muslim community was absent or 23 inadequate. We would ask you to recommend that 24 security agencies develop, in partnership with the Canadian Muslim and Arab communities, a coherent 25

training plan for security agents and 1 2 investigators. Such an initiative would see the 3 use of existing community resources and personnel, 4 would see regular meetings between the community 5 and senior officials, and would see policies that 6 7 are instituted to diversify the agencies by including Muslims and Arabs among investigators 8 9 and policy personnel. I would now like to turn to the 10 11 fourth point, which is the procedure and accountability of security investigations. 12 13 As all of us know, investigations 14 are secretive and typically operate behind closed doors. We are privy only to the broad contours of 15 investigation policy, but we don't have access to 16 17 the details. It's our expectation that such investigations be conducted following the rule of 18 law and other fundamental principles, and that 19 20 checks and balances are adhered to in the best interests of all concerned. 21 2.2 One of our greatest concerns as Arabs and Muslims revolve around the transfer of 23 24 information. Many of the communities -- or many of the countries that my community hails from do 25

1 not respect basic human rights, especially after 2 9/11. Dirty information passed about individuals to foreign governments often has dire consequences 3 for both individuals and their families. 4 In Mr. Arar's case, the RCMP shared its entire 5 database of information with U.S. officials 6 7 without caveats, and in violation of its own policy. Questions were shared with impunity. 8 9 Information sharing was contemplated with torturers, and information was shuffled back to 10 11 Canada without, it appears, any regard for its 12 credibility or truth.

13 We would ask you to recommend a 14 strict evaluation of current protocols regarding information-sharing with foreign agencies. 15 16 Information must not be passed where such 17 information would foreseeably contribute to the torture or ill-treatment of individuals, and 18 additionally we would ask you to recommend that 19 20 the law be amended to ensure that those who engage in this practice face strict penalties. 21 2.2 Turning now to the fifth theme, 23 which is the erosion of fundamental rights. 24 One of the most pressing 25 contemporary debates that you have heard about is

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1 the trade-off between civil liberties for greater
2 security.

Canadian Muslims and Arabs know 3 full well that trading off civil liberties means, 4 more pointedly, their civil liberties. All 5 members of society do not appear to bear the 6 7 burden of security with equality. Canada's security regime has been not blind, in the best 8 9 interests of justice, but, rather, colourblind. Those stigmatized as terrorists, those languishing 10 11 under security certificates, those affected are 12 almost exclusively Muslims and Arabs.

13 Legislation and policies that betray the rule of law create a sense of civic 14 15 cynicism and second-class citizenship. In the current climate, it seems as the Charter of Rights 16 17 and Freedoms' guarantee of life, liberty and security is becoming increasingly threatened. 18 Did Canadian officials protect the life, liberty, and 19 20 security of Mr. Arar? The evidence suggests to you that Canadian officials failed in this duty 21 2.2 through numerous errors of omission and 23 commission. They failed to intervene during Mr. Arar's detention in the U.S., despite U.S. 24 recommendations for intervention. 25 They were

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unaware of the most basic human rights abuses in 1 2 Syria, and they failed to request vigorously Mr. Arar's basic consular rights. 3 On the contrary, officials asked 4 for interrogation reports, asked for Canadian 5 officials to interrogate Mr. Arar in Syria, and 6 7 gathered information to rebut the possibility of torture. Our security agencies consistently 8 9 refused to exonerate Mr. Arar, raised political objections to Canadian efforts in having him 10 11 returned, and travelled to Syria and had 12 high-level meetings with Syrian military 13 personnel. We would ask you, 14 15 Mr. Commissioner, to assess the actions and inaction of Canadian officials in Mr. Arar's case 16 17 and to determine whether they bear any responsibility for having caused or contributed to 18 any of the human rights violations that he 19 20 experienced.

21 We would further ask you to 22 recommend that the Government establish clear 23 guidelines for consular officials, delineating 24 their responsibilities in assisting Canadians 25 abroad, indicating their role as

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1 intelligence-gathering experts, and also speaking 2 to their duties to meaningfully inquire into and assess torture, as well as their duty to report 3 any such concerns. 4 Lastly, Mr. Commissioner, I would 5 speak to the issue of the pattern. 6 7 The cases of Mr. Arar, Mr. Almalki, Mr. El Maati, and Mr. Nureddin are 8 9 frightening due to the similarities existing between them. Taken together, we think they raise 10 11 the possibility that Canada may have its own form 12 of rendition to torture. You've heard from my colleague, Mr. Neve, about the commonalities 13 between these cases, and I won't delve into them. 14 If the allegations made by these individuals are 15 true, Canadian officials have much to account for. 16 17 Mr. Almalki, for example, has alleged that a Canadian report was sent to Syrians after he was 18 released, that the Canadian Embassy ejected him 19 20 when he needed them the most, and that the government flatly ignored him when he came to 21 2.2 Canada even though Mr. Arar had spoken previously and publicly about Mr. Almalki's torture. 23 24 We would ask you to go as far as 25 the evidence allows with respect to determining

whether what happened to Mr. Arar can be linked to 1 a Canadian policy of rendition, of having Canadian 2 citizens detained and interrogated abroad, and we 3 would also ask you to call for a further process 4 of an independent, impartial, and expert review of 5 the cases of Mr. Almalki, Mr. El Maati, and 6 7 Mr. Nureddin through either the second phase of this public inquiry or through any other effective 8 9 independent process that you consider to be sufficient to ensure full and complete public 10 11 accountability.

In closing, I would like to say 12 13 that this is the only public inquiry that I know 14 that is examining the impact of national security investigations on the life of an individual. 15 Tt's 16 the only one I think in the world. Mr. Arar once 17 recounted to me a dream that he had in prison where he was seen to be giving gifts of savories 18 to other prisoners. In my faith there is such a 19 20 thing such as true dreams. I don't have them. Only the select are blessed to have them. 21

I think that the metaphor of the dream was that Mr. Arar would be helping others who are similarly detained.

25 There are many individuals who

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1 languish forgotten in too many parts of the world, 2 and Mr. Arar is only a single case, but I have every belief that Mr. Arar's justice will be the 3 justice denied of so many. This inquiry will be 4 significant, and I want to thank you as sincerely 5 as I can for having the courage to lead it. 6 7 Thank you so much. THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 8 9 much, Mr. Saloojee. This will probably be the last time you'll be before the Commission. Let me 10 11 express my thanks to you and to your organizations 12 for your participation and involvement throughout. 13 You've been here since the start, and I know you've followed it closely and bringing your 14 15 perspective to the inquiry has been of great 16 assistance to me. So thank you. MR. SALOOJEE: Thank you very 17

18 much, Mr. Commissioner.
19 MS PILLAY: Commissioner O'Connor,

20 it's very nice to see you again.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Nice to see22 you, Professor Pillay.

23 SUBMISSIONS

24 MS PILLAY: Thank you on behalf of 25 InCAT for allowing us to appear. As you know I'm

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1 appearing on behalf of the intervenor, the 2 International Coalition Against Torture. We ask you, Commissioner O'Connor, 3 to make three recommendations. 4 The first one is to recommend that 5 the Government of Canada petition the U.N., the 6 7 United Nations Committee against Torture, that the United States has violated its obligations under 8 9 the U.N. Convention Against Torture. As Your Lordship is aware, the 10 11 Convention Against Torture, in article 21, 12 provides: 13 "A State party to this convention may at any time 14 15 declare, under this article, that it recognizes the 16 17 competence of the committee to receive and consider 18 communications to the effect 19 20 that a State party claims 21 that another State party is 2.2 not fulfilling its 23 obligations under this convention." 24 Article 21 further provides that 25

1 such inter-State complaints are permissible so 2 long as each State party has made a declaration recognizing the competence of the U.N. Committee 3 Against Torture. 4 Commissioner O'Connor, both Canada 5 and the United States have declared that they 6 7 recognize the competence of the U.N. Committee Against Torture to receive and consider 8 9 communications that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention 10 11 Against Torture. 12 Accordingly, the U.N. Committee 13 Against Torture has the competence to hear and consider a petition by Canada to determine whether 14 15 or not the United States did or did not fulfil its 16 obligations pursuant to the Convention Against 17 Torture with respect to the obligations the U.S. itself owed to Mr. Arar. 18 There is substantial evidence 19 20 before this Commission that indeed the United States did not fulfil its obligations under the 21 22 Convention Against Torture owed to Mr. Arar. 23 Mr. Arar has stated that on September 26th, 2002, 24 he arrived at JFK airport in New York, returning from a family trip to Tunisia. He has stated that 25

1 when he arrived, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services, the INS, took Mr. Arar 2 into custody, although he was only at JFK in 3 transit, en route returning to Canada. 4 According to Mr. Arar, with no 5 lawyers present, the INS then proceeded to 6 7 question him for nine hours about his alleged links to al-Oaeda. Mr. Arar states that he was 8 9 then removed to the Metropolitan Detention Center in New York where he spent 13 days, and from that 10 11 site, Mr. Arar was deported by the United States, 12 via Jordan, to Syria. 13 This deportation occurred without 14 a hearing, without any knowledge, apparently, of 15 the Canadian consulate, Mr. Arar's lawyer, or 16 Mr. Arar's family. Ms Maureen Girvan, Canadian consul 17 in New York at the time the Americans detained 18 Mr. Arar in New York and deported him, told this 19 20 Commission on May 11th, 2005, that when she tried to procure information about Mr. Arar's status, 21 22 that she was stonewalled by American officials, and she has also given evidence that she was not 23 24 given any advance notice that Mr. Arar would be 25 deported.

1 Most significantly, this 2 deportation occurred despite Mr. Arar's repeated and continuous protests and statements to U.S. 3 officials in the United States and to U.S. 4 officials in Jordan, that if returned to Syria, he 5 would be tortured. 6 7 He was eventually handed over to Syrian authorities on October 21st, 2002. 8 The 9 United States did not apparently insist upon or 10 implement any monitoring system to report on 11 Mr. Arar's treatment while in Syrian custody. This despite a 2001 U.S. Department of State 12 13 report that condemned the widespread practice of

15 Mr. Arar has told us, or has 16 reported, that once in Syria he was taken immediately into the custody of the Syrian 17 Military Intelligence branch, Far' Falastin, which 18 is allegedly known for torturing political 19 20 prisoners. Mr. Arar reports that he was 21 immediately, and for the next six days of 22 interrogation, subjected to torture using an 23 electric cable and beatings. During this 24 interrogation, Mr. Arar claims that because of the torture, he signed a false confession that he had 25

torture in Syria.

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1 visited Afghanistan. 2 InCAT wishes to point out at this 3 point that the U.N. Convention Against Torture, in its very definition of torture found in Article 1, 4 defines torture as: 5 "Any act by which severe pain 6 7 or suffering, whether physical or mental, is 8 9 intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as 10 11 obtaining from him or a third 12 person information or a confession." 13 The definition does continue. 14 15 Mr. Arar also reports that for the 16 next ten months he was kept in cruel and inhumane 17 conditions in Syria before his eventual release to the Canadian consulate in Damascus on October 5th, 18 19 2003. 20 Your Lordship, we would also like to reiterate here that the Convention Against 21 22 Torture prohibits State parties from expelling or 23 returning a person to another State, i.e. the 24 principle of non refoulement rather, "where there are substantial grounds for believing that he 25

would be in danger of being subjected to torture." 1 2 There is substantial credible evidence that the United States violated this 3 prohibition by removing Mr. Arar to Syria through 4 Indeed, the Committee Against Torture has 5 Jordan. heard individual complaints, and in one well-known 6 7 case from 1997, it considered the complaint of Tapia Paez against Sweden, and the committee held 8 9 there that wherever substantial grounds exist for believing an individual would be in danger of 10 11 being subjected to torture upon expulsion to another State, the State party is under obligation 12 13 not to return that person concerned to that State. Furthermore, the committee also 14 stated that the nature of the person's activities, 15 the question of what activities a person may or 16 17 may not have engaged in, cannot be a material consideration when making a determination under 18 Article 3 of the Convention. 19 20 The U.N. Special Rapporteur on torture has also stated that this principle of non 21 refoulement contained in Article 3 is an inherent 22 part of the overall, absolute, and imperative 23 nature of the prohibition of torture and other 24 forms of ill treatment. 25

We do not request or expect this Commission to come to any conclusion on the evidence of U.S. complicity in the torture of Mr. Arar. We do also accept the submissions of the other intervenors with respect to the pattern of extraordinary renditions. We also recognize that the United States is not a party nor an intervenor at this Commission, and it would be unfair to the U.S. to come to a conclusion on their responsibility without hearing from them. Nevertheless, the issues of

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12 accountability, responsibility, and the need to 13 end impunity with respect to torture is an issue 14 of vital importance to Mr. Arar, to Canadians, and 15 to all members of the human family.

16 In this regard, American 17 responsibility and accountability must not be overlooked but addressed, and given that there are 18 serious grounds to question whether there was 19 20 direct American complicity in the torture of Mr. Arar, we believe that the U.N. Committee 21 2.2 Against Torture and its interstate complaint mechanism is the credible mechanism to come to a 23 24 conclusion on that evidence.

25 InCAT also submits that

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1 determining American responsibility in this regard 2 is an essential component to determining Canadian responsibility with respect to what has happened 3 to Mr. Arar. In order to make a complete 4 determination of the responsibility of Canadian 5 officials it would be necessary to make a 6 7 determination of American responsibility. Again, we request then that this 8 9 Commission should recommend to the Government of Canada to invoke Article 21 of the Convention 10 11 Against Torture. 12 Our second submission is that we 13 respectfully ask this Commission to recommend that the Canadian State Immunity Act be amended to 14 15 allow civil suits against foreign States for 16 torture. The Convention Against Torture, in 17 Article 14, provides: "Each State party shall 18 19 ensure in its legal system 20 that the victim of an act of 21 torture obtains redress and

fair and adequate

compensation."

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This has not been the case in

has an enforceable right to

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Canada, and I would just like to point out a few
 instances as they relate to Mr. Arar's case as
 well.

Mr. Houshang Bouzari, one of the 4 founders of InCAT, sued Iran for the torture the 5 Iranian government inflicted upon him. 6 He was 7 tortured in Iran in 1993. He became a permanent resident of Canada in July 1998, and a citizen of 8 Canada in 2001. Prior to receiving his Canadian 9 citizenship, he sued Iran in Canadian courts in 10 11 2000, seeking compensation for his torture, but without success. He lost in the Ontario Superior 12 Court in May 2002, in the Ontario Court of Appeal 13 14 in June 2004, and in 2005, the Supreme Court of Canada denied his request to appeal the lower 15 court decision. David Matas, the co-author of 16 17 this submission, was one of the counsel at these 18 court proceedings.

The lower Ontario courts held that The State Immunity Act was a bar to Mr. Bouzari's lawsuit. Mr. Arar sued Jordan and Syria for the torture inflicted on him. Syria did not defend and was noted in default. Jordan moved to dismiss the action on the basis of the State Immunity Act. Mr. Arar's counsel attempted to distinguish the

decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal in the 1 Bouzari case on the basis that at the time of the 2 torture Mr. Arar was a Canadian citizen, but 3 Mr. Bouzari was not. The Honourable Eklin J. of 4 the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, in February 5 2005, rejected this distinction and accepted the 6 7 Jordanian motion, i.e., that the State Immunity Act was a bar. 8 9 As we know, Canada is a signatory to the U.N. Convention Against Torture, and it 10 11 provided its periodic reports on implementation of 12 that Convention to the U.N. Committee Against Torture this past May 2005. Canada submitted its 13 fourth and fifth periodic reports. 14 15 The Committee considered Canada's 16 implementation of the Convention, and the 17 Committee released its conclusions on Canada's report this past May 20th. The Committee 18 expressed its concern that in Canada there is: 19 20 "an absence of effective measures to provide civil 21 2.2 compensation of victims of torture in all cases." 23 24 The Committee in its recommendations also included one recommendation 25

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that Canada should review its position under 1 Article 14 of the Convention to ensure the 2 3 provision of compensation through its civil jurisdiction to all victims of torture. 4 This is particularly important as 5 well, given that Mr. David Matas and Mr. Hussein 6 7 Bouzari met with the U.N. Committee Against Torture prior to the report coming out and 8 9 discussed the Bouzari case, and they had just -and as a result the reference to "all cases" and 10 11 to "all victims of torture" we suggest implies that the right to compensation should not be 12 13 restricted to cases of torture only occurring within Canada's jurisdiction. 14 15 Our third submission, Your 16 Lordship, is that this Commission recommend that 17 the Attorney General of Canada allow private prosecutions by Canadian citizens for torture 18 inflicted abroad. Indeed, Canadian law currently 19 20 does allow for such private prosecution. However, 21 in a recent case in which Mr. Kunlun Zhang, a 22 Canadian citizen, a Falun Gong practitioner, and a Chinese torture victim, attempted to bring a case 23 24 against China in a Canadian court. The Attorney

25 General of Canada refused to grant consent for

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such a private prosecution. Mr. David Matas
represented Kum lin Zhang in this action, and
although it is unclear whether the Attorney
General's consent is actually required, out of an
abundance of caution, he did request such consent,
and as stated, it was denied.

7 InCAT's submission here is that the Attorneys General have used the policy on 8 9 public prosecutions in making a determination of whether a private prosecution should be allowed, 10 11 and we respectfully submit that that was an error, and indeed, when it comes to citizens bringing 12 13 actions against a foreign State for torture committed abroad, consent to prosecute should be 14 allowed by the Attorney General, given the gravity 15 16 of the crime which, as we've heard this afternoon, 17 is a crime that has jus cogens dimensions.

So these are our submissions, andthank you, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Professor Pillay. Let me express my appreciation to you and to InCAT for preparation of your submissions and your participation in the inquiry. I appreciate it. Thank you.

25 --- Pause

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1 MR. BARRETTE: Mr. O'Connor, I 2 will make my submission in French. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. I'll need --4 M. BARETTE : Je vais obliger tout 5 le monde à prendre -- ou presque. 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: No, no. That's fine. I just have to wait for my earphones. 8 9 Merci beaucoup. 10 --- Pause 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Go ahead. 12 13 SOUMISSIONS M. BARETTE : OK. So I'm Denis 14 Barette. De la Coalition pour la surveillance 15 internationale des libertés civiles. 16 17 Ma présentation va être un peu décousue puisqu'il y a beaucoup de thèmes qui ont 18 été abordés par d'autres intervenants qui m'ont 19 20 précédé. Je dois toutefois vous dire que 21 22 nous avons été créés -- la coalition, le CSILC, le ICMLMG en anglais -- nous avons été créés après 23 24 le 11 septembre, suite aux événements que l'on connaît et suite aussi à nos craintes que les 25

mesures de sécurité portent gravement atteinte aux 1 2 droits humains. Malheureusement, beaucoup de 3 facteurs ont confirmé notre crainte. 4 On peut penser aux équipes 5 intégrées d'agences d'enquête entre les États-Unis 6 7 et le Canada, au partage effréné d'information entre agences et entre États, au certificat de 8 9 sécurité qui permet de garder des gens détenus pendant plusieurs années sans procès, au discours 10 11 du gouvernement du Canada qui permet de justifier le renvoi vers la torture dans des circonstances 12 exceptionnelles, et évidemment aux cas de 13 messieurs Arar, Almalki et El Maati. 14 15 Le secrétaire général des Nations Unies Kofi Annan et l'ancienne juge Louise Arbour, 16 17 qui est maintenant haute commissaire aux Droits de l'homme, se sont levés dans la dernière année pour 18 dénoncer les dérives des mesures sécuritaires et 19 20 pour réaffirmer l'importance de mettre de l'avant les droits de l'homme. 21 2.2 Tous les intervenants vont aussi dans ce sens là, j'en suis certain. 23 24 Monsieur David Crossin a bien expliqué l'importance du droit international dans 25

1 cette enquête.

2 On voudrait souligner deux-trois aspects à ce sujet là, notamment : le pacte 3 relatif au droit international et relatif au 4 droits civils et politiques, à l'article 4, 5 interdit -- même dans un cas où le danger immédiat 6 7 de menace d'existence à la nation, il est interdit de pratiquer la torture ou d'infliger des 8 9 traitements cruels ou inhumains. Clairement interdit par le pacte des droits civils et 10 11 politiques. 12 Le Canada a signé ces pactes là. 13 Le Canada a signé aussi la Convention contre la 14 torture. 15 Malgré ces signatures, malgré ces 16 engagements, malgré sa réputation de pays où on respecte les droits humains, le Canada maintient 17 toujours le discours -- le gouvernement canadien 18 maintient le discours qu'il y a toujours des 19 20 circonstances exceptionnelles. Même ce matin, on entendait 21 22 l'avocat, une avocate du Canada, du gouvernement 23 canadien, que dans certains cas, il y a certains cas, certains cas de menace, ou certains cas où on 24 pourrait justifier ou pondérer les droits de la 25

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personne, certains droits de la personne et la 1 sécurité des Canadiens. 2 Je vous rappelle, Monsieur le 3 Juge, comme bien d'autres, qu'il n'y a aucune 4 pondération, aucun équilibre possible entre 5 torture, mauvais traitement et sécurité nationale. 6 7 Ce discours là est maintenu constamment par le gouvernement canadien et par 8 9 certains témoins de l'enquête. Vous avez monsieur Ward Elcock, 10 11 qui était à l'époque directeur du SCRC, qui est 12 venu vous dire qu'il faisait un « balancing », un 13 équilibrage, entre besoin de sécurité et besoin de renseignements et droits de la personne. 14 15 Il rajoute que, dans certains cas, 16 il va recommander des ententes de partage de 17 sécurité avec des pays qui sont soupçonnés de pratiquer la torture. 18 Ce genre de pondération là, 19 20 Monsieur le Juge, n'est rien d'autre pour nous qu'une justification de la torture. Cela ne mène à 21 2.2 rien d'autre. Nous irions plus loin. À la 23 24 limite, cela nous mène à une participation, à une complicité à des pays où on pratique la torture. 25

La réputation du Canada au niveau 1 2 international est grande, et nous en sommes fiers. On dit qu'au Canada on est réputé avoir un respect 3 des droits humains, sauf que cette réputation là 4 ne va pas sans obligation. 5 On peut imaginer l'impact sur la 6 7 communauté internationale si le Canada se met à ne pas respecter les conventions internationales des 8 9 droits de l'homme. La sous-traitance de la torture. 10 11 Je n'aborderai pas le sujet plus qu'il ne le faut. Nous sommes d'accord avec ce qu'Alex Neve vous a 12 13 dit à ce sujet là. 14 On a signé les représentations des intervenants à ce sujet là. On croit aussi qu'il 15 est légitime, que le public peut légitimement 16 17 savoir ce qui est advenu et s'il y un modèle de sous-traitance de torture au Canada sur les 18 détenus des Canadiens ou des détenus à l'extérieur 19 20 du pays qui pourrait peut-être nous donner de l'information. 21 2.2 Je vais aborder la question du 23 partage d'informations. 24 Monsieur Arar, on sait que le 29 25 novembre 2001, on a une note sur un document qui a

1 été déposé, dont je n'ai pas la pièce ici, comme 2 quoi monsieur Arar serait un « terrorist », en 3 anglais. Donc, monsieur Arar se retrouve 4 sur une « watch list », je vais l'appeler comme 5 ca, où on trouve l'indication « terrorist ». Cela 6 7 est le 29 novembre 2001. Tous les témoins du gouvernement 8 sont venus vous dire qu'on ne considérait pas 9 monsieur Arar comme terroriste, mais comme témoin 10 11 potentiel. Il n'était même pas suspect. 12 Alors, on se pose la question : Pourquoi cette mention là se retrouve à l'aéroport 13 Trudeau à Montréal lors de son arrivée à Montréal 14 ? Terroriste. D'où vient cette mention là ? 15 16 Plusieurs hypothèses. 17 La première : elle provient de responsables canadiens qui ont décidé qu'on devait 18 19 imposer cette mention là à monsieur Arar. 20 Autre hypothèse : elle provient de responsables des États-Unis qui l'incluent sur 21 2.2 leur base de données et ensuite l'information est transmise aux bases de données des aéroports 23 24 canadiens. Cette hypothèse là nous fait 25

demander : quelle est l'autonomie véritable du 1 Canada sur les bases de données utilisées dans les 2 aéroports, quel contrôle véritable a-t-on de nos 3 bases de données d'enquête et qui décide de ce qui 4 est inscrit, des inscriptions, sur les bases de 5 données d'enquête, qu'elles soient dans les 6 aéroports ou ailleurs ? 7 Et cela nous amène à l'intégration 8 9 des équipes d'enquête. Ce que j'ai compris des 10 11 témoignages de monsieur Cabana, c'est que le FBI, 12 et probablement la CIA, ne sont pas seulement des observateurs dans l'équipe A-OCANADA. Ils sont des 13 participants dans l'équipe A-OCANADA. 14 15 J'ai compris que les réunions se 16 font plus d'une fois par semaine. J'ai compris que 17 l'information circule. Et j'ai compris aussi, des plaidoiries de mes collèques du gouvernement, que 18 la pression était énorme de la part des États-Unis 19 20 pour faire des enquêtes sur le terrorisme. 21 Et je me pose la question 22 légitimement : Est-ce que, dans les équipes intégrées, le Canada peut conserver sa 23

24 souveraineté dans les enquêtes soit criminelles ou
25 les enquêtes de sécurité ou criminelles de

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sécurité, en fait ? Puisque monsieur Cabana 1 2 diffère les deux. Une enquête criminelle de sécurité. Et encore là, qui décide vraiment de ce 3 qui se passe ? 4 Monsieur Cabana nous dit que dans 5 l'équipe intégrée on travaille sur le modèle du 6 7 « open book investigation ». Et, je vous soumets -- dans nos recommandations, Monsieur le 8 Juge, on vous soumet plusieurs recommandations 9 pour une révision des équipes intégrées, et même 10 11 un moratoire des équipes intégrées, une révision -- vous avez les recommandations. 12 13 Il y en a plusieurs. Je vous vois les regarder. Ça commence à la recommandation 14 numéro quatre jusqu'à la recommandation numéro 13. 15 16 Il y a plusieurs différentes 17 recommandations sur soit le partage de données, le partage d'information, soit les équipes intégrées 18 et soit la question de la souveraineté canadienne 19 20 à l'intérieur du partage d'information des équipes 21 intégrées. Une chose est sûre, Monsieur le 2.2 Juge -- Monsieur le Commissaire, pardon. 23 Une 24 chose est sûre, Monsieur le Commissaire, c'est que, qu'il s'agisse des droits de l'homme, des 25

droits de la personne, ou qu'il s'agisse de 1 partage d'information, de donner une formation aux 2 fonctionnaires ou de changer les règles de 3 procédures ne changera rien si la culture ne 4 5 change pas. Cela ne changera rien si les 6 7 orientations politiques à haut niveau ne sont pas modifiées. 8 9 Et cela ne change rien sur ce qui s'est passé à monsieur Arar. 10 11 Pour ce qui est de la 12 responsabilité des personnes en cause dans cette 13 enquête, je dois vous dire que notre coalition trouve invraisemblables les explications de 14 15 plusieurs responsables qui sont venus témoigner 16 ici. 17 Nous avons lu ou écouté des personnes de haut niveau, de haut rang -- monsieur 18 Pillarella, monsieur Cabana, monsieur Elcock --19 20 venir nous dire que --Par exemple, monsieur Elcock, 21 22 avocat qui a travaillé, je crois, au bureau du 23 Conseil privé à une certaine époque comme avocat, 24 directeur du SCRS, ne connaît pas de définition de la torture. Monsieur Elcock n'est pas certain 25

qu'il y ait de la torture infligée en Syrie. 1 Monsieur Pillarella. Monsieur 2 Pillarella, ancien directeur de la division des 3 droits humains au ministère des Affaires 4 étrangères. Monsieur Pillarella ne connaît pas --5 ne sait pas ce qu'est la « Palestine Branch », le 6 7 lieu où sont détenus Maher Arar et les autres, ne sait pas que la « Palestine Branch » est un lieu 8 9 qui est contrôlé par les services de renseignements syriens. Pourtant, il connaît bien 10 11 monsieur Khalil. 12 Monsieur Pillarella ne sait pas 13 non plus si on torture en Syrie, ne connaît pas la situation en Syrie. 14 15 Écoutez, on trouve cela incroyable 16 parce qu'une personne de si haut niveau, si haut 17 placée, est présumée connaître -- d'abord, est présumée être compétente, présumée connaître la 18 situation en Syrie, présumée être responsable et 19 20 compétente et savoir quoi faire dans des situations semblables que celles qu'à vécues 21 2.2 monsieur Arar. C'est invraisemblable, Monsieur le 23 24 Juge, surtout si l'on sait que monsieur Pillarella était très -- travaillait très fort à organiser 25

1 des rencontres entre les agences de renseignements 2 et les Syriens ou à servir de courroie de transmission entre soit les agences de 3 renseignements et la GRC et les Syriens. 4 Il est important que la commission 5 fasse la lumière, dans son rapport, sur les 6 7 obligations et sur les manquements des fonctionnaires de haut niveau dans le cas de 8 9 monsieur Arar. Je ne veux pas m'éterniser. Je ne 10 11 relirai pas tout le mémoire évidemment, mais je 12 vous dirais qu'on est d'accord aussi avec ce que 13 monsieur Neve vous a dit quant au huis-clos. 14 Il est important que le public --15 le public s'attend à avoir des réponses à toutes les questions qui ont été posées. 16 17 C'est une question de légitimité. 18 C'est une question de légitimité, pas de la commission, mais de légitimité des agences 19 20 d'application de la loi. 21 Et on vous encourage à maintenir

la position -- maintenir que l'enquête soit le
plus public possible. Et on espère que le
gouvernement va lever les obstacles au caractère
public, à la tenue du caractère public des

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1	conclusions de votre enquête. Et on vous encourage
2	à ce que le rapport soit le plus public possible.
3	Finalement, Monsieur le
4	Commissaire, on voudrait vous faire part qu'on a
5	beaucoup apprécié votre écoute et votre
6	sensibilité envers les intervenants, et on a aussi
7	beaucoup apprécié que vous nous ayez permis
8	d'avoir quelqu'un pour faire la coordination entre
9	les intervenants, qui est madame Kerry Pither, qui
10	a fait un très bon travail. Même, c'est peu dire,
11	un travail extraordinaire. Et on fait confiance à
12	votre rapport, qui, espérons, va arriver le plus
13	tôt possible.
14	Merci.
15	LE COMMISSAIRE : Merci beaucoup,
16	Monsieur Barette.
17	Let me thank you, as well as
18	Mr. Allmand and your group, for your involvement
19	and participation. From the very beginning, you
20	have been involved, and I'm keenly aware of it,
21	and certainly also Mr. Allmand in the round table
22	and the policy review. I appreciated that. So
23	thank you very much for coming today and your
24	presentation.
25	SUBMISSIONS

1	MR. SHRYBMAN: Good afternoon,
2	Mr. Commissioner.
3	THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon.
4	MR. SHRYBMAN: I appreciate the
5	opportunity to make these final submissions on
6	behalf of the Council of Canadians and the Polaris
7	Institute.
8	I should begin by acknowledging
9	that we've only been able to play a very limited
10	role in this inquiry. At the outset of the
11	inquiry, we made reasonably detailed
12	submissions
13	THE COMMISSIONER: I recall.
14	MR. SHRYBMAN: about the issues
15	that we believed that it was crucial for you to
16	consider and address, and our understanding of the
17	evidence only reinforces our notion that these are
18	key issues, and certainly we encourage you to do
19	your best to tackle them.
20	But our ability to participate,
21	you know, with the Commission and its staff in
22	order to ensure that these issues were fully
23	pursued, was seriously frustrated by a lack of
24	resources to follow the proceedings and to wade
25	through the very voluminous evidence and

documentation that continued to arrive at my 1 office. 2 But I don't want you to take from 3 that a lack of interest by my clients in the 4 proceedings or the very serious issues that are 5 before you. So I'm here again to make 6 7 submissions, though they are limited in scope. Ι should note that as well. 8 9 So we have joined with other groups and have endorsed the submissions with 10 11 respect to a pattern. You will find both the 12 Council of Canadians and the Polaris Institute as signatories to those submissions; and on these 13 issues, we encourage you to determine and make a 14 15 finding as to whether or not what happened to Mr. Arar and others is linked to policies, 16 17 practices, and procedures that led to the detention and interrogation by Syrian and Egyptian 18 19 intelligence agencies of Canadian Muslim men. 20 We are also aware and strongly 21 support the positions adopted by several other 2.2 intervening groups, particularly those that are 23 concerned with international human rights and 24 Canadian civil liberties, and in particular, Amnesty International and the International Civil 25

Liberties Monitoring Group, of which the Council of Canadians is a member, and we are very grateful for the work those organizations have done and their attentive and active participation in these proceedings.

6 However, the lens that my clients 7 view the events surrounding Mr. Arar is a little 8 different than the ones brought to those events by 9 these other groups.

The groups that I represent spend 10 11 a great deal of time and energy and attention 12 focussed on the issues of Canada-U.S. relations, whether those are issues of trade, Canadian 13 14 sovereignty with respect to water or missile 15 defence or defence policy generally. Those are 16 the preoccupations or key preoccupations for both 17 the Council of Canadians and the Polaris Institute. So while these groups share the 18 concerns that have been raised by other 19 20 intervenors, their perspective on the events surrounding Mr. Arar is also informed by an 21 22 understanding of the nature of Canadian-U.S. 23 relations, particularly in the post-9/11 24 environment.

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Mr. Neve has suggested that you

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tackle the process of writing your report and 1 2 preparing recommendations within the context of international law relating to human rights and 3 that larger framework of law and policy that 4 relates to human rights and civil liberties. 5 We encourage you as well to consider another context 6 7 while you go about your work, and that is the context of Canada-U.S. relations and the policies 8 9 and practices and institutional framework that was established and enhanced particularly in the wake 10 of the events of September 11th. 11

12 When I appeared before you at the 13 outset of this inquiry, I expressed some concern about the Commission's mandate being too hastily 14 and narrowly focussed on the activities of 15 16 Canadian police, security, and intelligence 17 services, and pointed to the fact that the policy review was going to be limited in scope to 18 recommending additional oversight or perhaps 19 20 institutional controls for the RCMP.

The apprehension that this raised for us was that in fashioning your mandate in that manner, the Canadian government had adopted a policy that was intended to distract your attention to the symptoms rather than the causes

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of the events that gave rise to the abuses that 1 Mr. Arar has suffered. 2 It is essential, we submit, for 3 this Commission to resist any temptation to 4 examine the conduct of Canadians officials, 5 whether employed by the RCMP, CSIS, the Department 6 7 of Foreign Affairs and International Trade or elsewhere, including those elected to office, in 8 9 isolation from the government's policies, programs, and institutions that provided direction 10 11 and established the context within which these 12 officials operate. The Canadian officials referred to 13 14 in the Commission's mandate must be taken, in our view, to include those responsible for fashioning 15 16 Canadian security agenda, not just those charged 17 with carrying it out. Accordingly, we believe that it is 18 vital for the Commission to identify that policy 19 20 and institutional framework within which Canadian officials involved in the Arar case operated. 21 А 2.2 thorough examination of this context is essential if the actions of Canadian officials are going to 23 24 be properly understood and assessed and if the, 25 you know, egregious mistreatment that Mr. Arar

suffered at the hands of several governments is to not recur.

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I won't take you through our 3 written submissions, but there are two issues that 4 are fundamental, from our perspective, for you to 5 explore in this regard. One of them is the role 6 7 of Privy Council Office, not just in terms of whether or not it properly acted to arbitrate 8 9 competing agendas as they might have played out as between the RCMP and CSIS and officials at the 10 11 Department of Foreign Affairs and International 12 Trade but also as the architect of the policy and 13 institutional framework that we regard as 14 providing an important explanation for what 15 happened to Mr. Arar and why the officials that were engaged directly in his case and that worked 16 17 on the file behaved in the manner they did.

And you will find the origins of 18 those policies -- so they preexisted the events of 19 20 9/11. They were given a much higher status within the government, and indeed Privy Council Office 21 2.2 established a team to organize and coordinate and 23 orchestrate a whole broad institutional and policy 24 agenda to address the concerns that arose in the wake of those terrorist attacks. 25

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1 It's very clear that Canada's 2 motivation wasn't just to secure the security of Canadians, their physical security, but also was 3 very much determined by a desire to keep the 4 border open with the United States and attend to 5 the economic security of Canadians, and it's an 6 important explanation of why the government 7 responded in the way it did and why we believe so 8 9 little attention was paid to constitutional constraints on the capacity of Canadian officials 10 11 to act, including those set out in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and so little attention paid 12 as well to Canada's obligations under 13 international law as they concern human rights and 14 15 civil liberties.

The other issue that we invited 16 17 you to explore in our opening submissions that also speak to the interrelationship or confluence 18 of competing foreign policy objectives, some 19 20 relating to security, some relating to foreign investment, some relating to international trade, 21 22 some just broadly framed in terms of accommodating 23 U.S. interests and ambitions, was to point out 24 that, during that very period of time that Canada 25 was ostensibly trying to secure Mr. Arar's release

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1 from Syria, Canada was negotiating two important 2 investment agreements with the Government of Syria having to do with oil and gas exploration and 3 development, including one by Petro-Canada in 4 which it then had a significant equity interest. 5 I don't know to what degree 6 7 Canada's consul in Syria was engaged in facilitating that foreign investment endeavour, 8 9 but it seems to me that the two objectives were clearly playing out at precisely the same time, 10 11 and one can imagine that one might have well influenced the other and the degree to which 12 Canada's consul might want to accommodate the 13 interests or requests for advice or assistance 14 15 that might have been received from Syrians officials. 16

17 I don't know, to close, how far along with the inquiry into these issues the 18 Commission has been able to go. I've had a chance 19 20 to review some of the evidence, in particular the evidence of Mr. Dickenson, and while it's probing 21 22 with respect to his role in relation to the actions of Canadian officials in and around 23 24 Mr. Arar, it doesn't go very far in terms of exposing these broader issues that we think it's 25

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1 important for you to contend with. There may be 2 more that has come to light in the in-camera evidence that's not apparent from the summaries 3 that have been made available to us. You may have 4 the evidence you need in order to tackle these 5 issues; you may not. I'm thinking of Mr. Neve's 6 7 suggestion that you may decide, with respect to the submissions from our groups and others about 8 9 the pattern that may exist in this context, that further inquiry is necessary if indeed you do have 10 that view or develop it. 11 12 The issues that we've asked you to 13 canvass, if not fully canvassed, might also be suitable subjects for that type of further 14 15 inquiry. 16 So those are my submissions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, thank 17 18 you, Mr. Shrybman. I can assure you I'll consider the issues that you raise. You know, I'll reflect 19 20 on it. I think you fairly touch on the point that they're not issues that, in any large sense, as 21 2.2 you noted, that we've explored, but I'll certainly give careful consideration to what you raise. 23 24 Let me thank you and your groups, the two you represent, for participation and 25

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coming, and I join in your comments that the 1 2 coordination of the intervenor groups through Ms 3 Pither has been most helpful, so I share in those comments, and I think that was a very positive 4 step for the intervenors and for the inquiry as 5 well. 6 7 Thank you. Mr. Westwick? 8 9 SUBMISSIONS 10 THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon, 11 Mr. Westwick. 12 MR. WESTWICK: Good afternoon, 13 Commissioner. I now know what it is like to be 14 the clean-up hitter in the batting order. THE COMMISSIONER: You're batting 15 No. 9, I'd say, not the clean-up. You mean we're 16 17 only at the fourth spot? --- Laughter / Rires 18 MR. WESTWICK: Mr. Commissioner, 19 20 since the submissions of the Ottawa Police Service are on record and are available to the interested 21 22 parties, I wish to use the time today not to read 23 them into the record but rather to highlight some 24 of the issues that are of importance to us. 25 I wish to point out that the

written submissions have been shared earlier today 1 2 with the Muslim and Arab community in Ottawa and will be available on our web site later this 3 afternoon. 4 While the outcome of this inquiry 5 is of grave importance to all of those that are 6 7 represented here today and to the Canadian public, it is also of special importance to the Ottawa 8 9 Police Service. It is of importance to the Ottawa Police Service because its officers, as you well 10 11 know, were involved in Project A-OCANADA. In addition, it's important to the 12 13 Ottawa Police Service because there is an 14 expectation, a public expectation, within the

Ottawa community, that the police service will use its resources, working with its police partners, to solve crime, prevent terrorism, and keep the community safe.

In our submission, your report will serve two important purposes: The first, obviously, will be to address the mandate that the Government has given to this Commission. It will comment on the action of Canadian officials, make conclusions based on the evidence, the evidence that the Commission has heard over the last

This has been the focus of 1 several months. 2 extensive submissions today and yesterday and is obviously a paramount purpose. 3 This, however, is not the only 4 purpose to which your report will be used. With 5 time, the report will be increasingly looked upon 6 7 for its future application. As is the case with previous Commissions of Inquiry, the report of the 8 9 fact-finding component of the Arar Commission, together with the recommendations on Part 2, will 10 11 make a significant and serious contribution to the body of knowledge about how public authorities 12 13 conduct major multi-jurisdictional investigations in Canada. 14 15 Like other commissions and 16 judicial inquiries, for example the Campbell 17 Commission, the Macdonald Commission, and judicial inquiries into the wrongfully convicted, this 18 report will be studied by police, courts, and 19 20 oversight bodies, thereby informing administrative, operational, and legal decisions 21 22 in respect of major investigations, including those dealing with national security. 23 24 So, Mr. Commissioner, since national security investigations are of such 25

1 importance to the citizens of Ottawa, and since, when the dust settles, the Ottawa Police will 2 continue to be involved in these kinds of major 3 investigations, we have a strong interest in 4 addressing both of those purposes of your report. 5 If I may deal with the first 6 7 purpose of the report, the conduct of Canadian officials, insofar as it applies to the Ottawa 8 9 Police Service and its members who were involved in Project A-OCANADA, I can put our position very 10 11 succinctly: It is our submission that there is no 12 evidence to suggest any wrongdoing, malice, 13 inappropriate action or inaction on the part of the Ottawa Police Service or its officers, and 14 15 further it is our submission that the -submission of the Ottawa Police Service that the 16 17 report of the Commission of Inquiry should confirm 18 that.

The Ottawa Police stands by its role in Project A-OCANADA, supports its officers for their professionalism, commitment, and endorses the continued involvement of the police service in national security investigations in the National Capital Region.

25 Being respectful of the in-camera

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1 proceedings, I must err on the part of not 2 commenting further except to say that the Ottawa Police Service and its officers have received 3 standing and participated in both public hearings 4 and in-camera hearings at the Commission of 5 Inquiry. We do so, sir, out of respect for the 6 important work that you are doing and to assist, 7 if we may. We also note that the police service 8 9 and the officers have cooperated fully and completely with your Commission. 10 Having said that, I would like to 11

12 devote the remainder of my time to the second 13 purpose of the report: Its future application. And rather than review the evidence and invite you 14 to consider our interpretation, I would like to 15 16 focus, perhaps proactively and prospectively, on 17 the report and its impact on future national security investigations, more specifically I would 18 like to address information-sharing, case 19 20 management, and integrated policing. It is the submission of the Ottawa 21 2.2 Police Service that the practice of

23 information-sharing among police is critical to 24 the success of any major police investigation, 25 including a national security investigation; and

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1 further, that the principles and underlying value 2 of information-sharing applies equally to Canadian law enforcement agencies sharing information with 3 law enforcement in the United States. This is not 4 5 new. Investigation is the collection, 6 7 analysis, and management of information. Investigations are often solved as a result of 8 9 linkages from minor and often previously unrelated pieces of information. Information-sharing in an 10 11 investigative context is fundamental and 12 necessary. 13 Information-sharing in a multi-jurisdictional context is critical. 14 15 In moving forward, let us not 16 forget where we have been. The Bernardo 17 investigation review, the report of Mr. Justice Archie Campbell, 1996, looked into the allegations 18 that Ontario Police Services did not properly 19 20 share or manage information obtained in separate investigations in different jurisdictions and a 21 2.2 suggestion that harm occurred as a result. 23 Much of the current thinking in 24 police operations was formed by the wise words of Justice Campbell. Following an intensive and rare 25

1 look into the mechanics of a major 2 multi-jurisdictional investigation, Justice Campbell tells police not to work in silos, to set 3 aside the turf wars and the protectionism. 4 He implores police to work together and to share 5 information. He says the problem with major 6 7 investigations is even greater when there are separate investigations with no capacity to share 8 9 and pool information about suspects and investigative leads. 10 11 Justice Campbell's thinking is not 12 unique. It is often repeated in the reports of 13 judicial inquiries into the cases of wrongfully convicted because information both inculpates and 14 15 exculpates. In order to provide protection and 16 prevention to their communities, law enforcement 17 agencies must communicate, cooperate, and coordinate, including the exchange and sharing of 18 information. 19 20 Today's society operates in a 21 global context, characterized by instantaneous 22 communication, an international economy, world 23 wide technology, and multinational citizenship. 24 It is well-settled that organized crime and terrorism are not limited to one jurisdiction but, 25

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rather, thrive in a global environment, with law-breaking activities freely and frequently moving across local, national, and international

boundaries.

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5 In our submission, Justice 6 Campbell's words are as applicable today as they 7 were in 1996: Canadian police must be able to 8 respond, cooperate, and share in order to defeat 9 the efforts of organized criminals and terrorists 10 who try to exploit investigative weaknesses caused 11 by jurisdictional boundaries.

Justice Campbell goes further than telling police to just share information. He also recommends a systematic approach to information management that structures the investigation so that information is properly managed and shared. Justice Campbell says:

18 "A case management system is 19 needed that is based on 20 cooperation rather than 21 rivalry among law enforcement 2.2 agencies. A case management 23 system is needed that depends 24 on specialized training, early recognition of linked 25

offences, coordination of 1 2 interdisciplinary and forensic resources, and some 3 simple mechanisms to ensure 4 accountability and 5 coordination." 6 7 While he is speaking about serial sexual predators, from an investigative technique 8 9 standpoint and process standpoint, all major multi-jurisdictional investigations share common 10 11 features. Case management is now statutorily mandated in Ontario for police. 12 13 The last topic where the report can inform future investigations, in our 14 submission, is integrated policing. It will come 15 16 as no surprise to you, Mr. Commissioner, that the 17 Ottawa Police wish to make a strong representation on integrated policing. Integrated policing is 18 the effective coordination and collaboration of 19 20 operational effort by agencies operating in multiple jurisdiction with overlapping mandates. 21 2.2 Our submissions quote RCMP Deputy 23 Commissioner Loeppky on several points related to integrated policing. Since I am limited to the 24 25 public evidence, and lest anybody think that this

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is not an important concept to Canadian police, I 1 2 also point to the recent annual conference of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, which 3 took place a few weeks ago here in Ottawa, where 4 virtually every police leader endorsed the concept 5 of integrated policing. While integrated police 6 7 operations take place throughout Canada, its principles are likely more employed in Ottawa than 8 9 elsewhere, and there are several reasons for this.

In addition to the proximity of 10 11 the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, as the seat 12 of the Government of Canada is located in Ottawa, 13 there are unique overlapping jurisdictions within the city itself. Both the RCMP and the Ottawa 14 Police have long recognized this and are working 15 16 together, meeting these new policing challenges. 17 Mr. Loeppky pointed to examples of integrated operations between the Ottawa Police and the RCMP 18 with promises of more to come. 19

20 Some of these operations are 21 visible to the public. For example, where 22 officers are performing duties undertaken by 23 others in different uniforms. For example, RCMP 24 officers driving marked vehicles, Ottawa 25 Police-marked vehicles, and responding to general

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1 duty calls.

Some activities, like A-OCANADA,
are not so visible.

In either case, the concept of
integrated policing is simple: Work together,
maximize resources, and provide a professional,
integrated service within the City of Ottawa.

8 As you will soon see, sir, in part 9 2, integrated police operations create intriguing 10 legal and practical issues, including 11 constitutional concerns.

Mr. Commissioner, as the first inquiry to look at an integrated police operation in the way that you have, the Ottawa Police Service invites you to comment in a positive way on the concept.

17 More generally, while we welcome your insights into the investigative process, we 18 caution against comments that may be interpreted 19 20 as a retreat from the Campbell report. We worry that restrictions and limitations on 21 22 information-sharing, case management, even in an international concept, may create a spillover 23 24 chilling effect on their application to domestic multi-jurisdictional investigations, returning 25

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policing to a time before Campbell.

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In conclusion, I'd like to make 2 four comments: No one knows its community like 3 the police of local jurisdiction. The Ottawa 4 Police Service works within the community 5 cooperatively and actively in problem-solving and 6 7 crime prevention. This day-to-day working relationship builds the mutual trust and 8 9 confidence drawn upon both the police and the community in difficult times and circumstances, 10 11 such as a national security investigation. 12 My second point. The report of 13 the Commission of Inquiry will have to be crafted 14 so as to ensure a vigorous and effective response to the current reality of terrorism. 15 Mr. Commissioner, you will need to be 16 17 statesmanlike in order to harmonize community expectations for safety and prevention while, at 18 the same time, reinforcing the respect for human 19 20 rights and the important application of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. 21 2.2 In striking this vital balance, we 23 hope that you will be mindful of our concerns

24about integrated policing, case management, and25information-sharing, not just as the police say

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1 they are but, rather, as described by Mr. Justice 2 Campbell. The work of the Commission has 3 received significant public attention within the 4 community and also within policing circles. 5 It is important that in the result Canadian police have 6 7 a clear mandate to conduct comprehensive investigations into crime and national security 8 9 matters and that the public have a clear understanding of the special challenges associated 10 11 with national security investigations. 12 My last comment, sir, while we 13 understand that you have had very important issues to resolve arising from your mandate with very 14 15 tight time frames, you have, nonetheless, always treated our issues with respect and professional 16 courtesy, as has your counsel team, and we thank 17 you sincerely for that. 18 19 Thank you. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 21 much, Mr. Westwick. Again, let me express my 2.2 appreciation to you and to the police service for 23 your participation. I think throughout it's been 24 very appropriate, it's been very useful, and I appreciate the spirit of cooperation that you've 25

brought to the inquiry, so thank you very much. 1 2 MR. WESTWICK: Thank you very much, sir. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Cavalluzzo? 4 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Mr. Commissioner, 5 that would complete the public submissions. As 6 7 the schedule indicates, there will be in-camera submissions tomorrow, which will commence at 9:30. 8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: At 9:30 10 tomorrow. 11 MR. CAVALLUZZO: At 9:30 tomorrow, rather than ten o'clock, just to ensure that 12 13 everyone is there on time. It had been 14 THE COMMISSIONER: 15 10:00. 16 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Right. 17 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. 18 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Now, in respect of where we go from here, there will be future 19 20 public hearings in respect of Part 1. We will be 21 dealing with certain evidence relating to consular 2.2 services. 23 We are hoping to have the first 24 day of that evidence on October the 24th, at which time we will set up a schedule as to the witness; 25

and then in the next week and the first week of 1 2 November, I hope to have a couple of days relating 3 to expert evidence in respect of consular services. 4 The remaining days of hearing will 5 be in December, and they will relate to the 6 7 national security concerns that we have heard about today. We do not have firm dates in 8 9 December, but we hope to have those days in the last month of this year. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: That was the hearing that Mr. Atkey referred to, where we hope 12 13 to, with the Government, look at the significant issues, if there are some --14 15 MR. CAVALLUZZO: That's correct. 16 THE COMMISSIONER: -- about what 17 can be released and not released --MR. CAVALLUZZO: That's correct. 18 THE COMMISSIONER: 19 -- in the 20 report so that -- okay. 21 MR. CAVALLUZZO: Okay. 2.2 THE COMMISSIONER: And so that that would be then, at least as currently 23 24 envisioned, the last of the hearings of this Commission of Inquiry. 25

1	MR. CAVALLUZZO: That will be the
2	last of the Part 1 hearings, correct.
3	THE COMMISSIONER: I might just
4	say for purposes of the public we have as well in
5	October four days scheduled for submissions with
6	respect to the policy review.
7	Some of the intervenors have, in
8	their submissions today, included submissions that
9	deal with the policy review. I'm aware of that.
10	Certainly a schedule will be set
11	up for those submissions, and so that if groups
12	are very interested in participating, even though
13	they've made submissions here today, they're
14	certainly invited and welcome to participate
15	during those four days in October.
16	Let me just, in expressing
17	thanks I didn't, Ms McIsaac, intentionally
18	leave out the Government publicly to express my
19	thanks for the appreciation for your submissions.
20	I thought that the written
21	information submissions that you and
22	Mr. Fothergill put together and your oral
23	submissions were very helpful indeed and very
24	appropriate as well. I appreciate that.
25	Now, you will be back at the next

go-around. We hope this doesn't become the 1 2 inquiry that never ends. I think not. I think we are getting through it. 3 Let me -- I have thanked all the 4 intervenors, but I do want to make one further 5 general comment, without going overboard, but the 6 7 participation of the public in a public inquiry is obviously very important. People have alluded to 8 9 that. In this inquiry, it's been more of 10 11 a challenge than would normally be the case, and I can understand from the intervenors' standpoint 12 13 that have a great interest in these issues and in the particular work of this inquiry why they might 14 15 justifiably feel frustrated, have felt frustrated from time to time. 16 17 Nonetheless, I think that the submissions that I've received, both in writing 18 and the oral presentations here today, speak to 19 20 the value of that contribution. I think this is encouraging, as a 21 2.2 Canadian, to sit here and listen and to see that 23 there are people that are truly engaged in the process, take the time, effort -- I think I do 24 appreciate what's involved to come forward and to 25

participate in this fashion. So, again, I say thank you to all of you for your support throughout the inquiry. Okay. The public hearings then, we will rise until October 24th, and we'll have our in-camera hearing tomorrow. THE REGISTRAR: Please stand. --- Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 5:04 p.m., to resume on Monday, October 24, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. \ L'audience est ajournée à 17 h 04, pour reprendre le lundi 24 octobre 2005 à 10 h unda Johansoon Lynda Johansson, C.S.R., R.P.R.

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