



## Press Release

For immediate release

### **Commissioner Dennis O'Connor Appoints Reid Morden as Special Advisor on National Security Confidentiality Issues**

**Ottawa, June 6, 2005** – Commissioner Dennis R. O'Connor who heads the Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar announced today the appointment of Mr. Reid Morden as Special Advisor to the Commission on issues relating to National Security Confidentiality (NSC) claims.

Mr. Morden's principal role will be to provide expert advice to the Commission on what information heard *in camera* should be publicly disclosed. The special advisor's role will be of central importance as the Commission approaches its conclusion in that NSC issues will have to be resolved in preparation of the Interim Report.

As former Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Morden brings to the Commission a unique background and expertise in the fields of security intelligence and public policy issues. Mr. Morden is a Fellow of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute and he is a Member of the Order of Canada.

In making the announcement, Commissioner Dennis O'Connor expressed his confidence that : "Mr. Morden's contribution to the Inquiry, together with that of the independent *Amicus Curiae*, Mr. Ron Atkey, will be of invaluable support to me as the complex issues of NSC confidentiality come to a close and as I prepare to produce my Interim Report."

Currently Executive Director of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Iraq Oil-For-Food-Program, Reid Morden has agreed to make time in a busy schedule to advise the Commission of Inquiry.

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*Established under Part I of the Inquiries Act, the Arar Inquiry was set up on the recommendation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to investigate and report on the actions of Canadian officials in relation to Maher Arar. The Commissioner is also mandated to make recommendations that he considers advisable on an arm's length review mechanism for the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to national security.*

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