Commission d'enquête sur les actions des responsables canadiens relativement à Maher Arar



Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar

Examen de la Politique Audience publique Policy Review Public Hearing

Commissaire

L'Honorable juge / The Honourable Justice Dennis R. O'Connor

Commissioner

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1 Ottawa, Ontario / Ottawa (Ontario) 2 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, 15 November, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. / L'audience débute le mardi 15 3 novembre 2005 à 13 h 00 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: We will get under way. б Welcome to the beginning of the 7 8 submissions for the policy review. We will be 9 having these submissions over the course of the next three days after today, four days including 10 11 today. There is a published schedule for people who are making presentations. 12 13 All of the presenters have 14 presented written material, which I have had an opportunity of reviewing which has been very 15 16 helpful. The written presentations have been made available to different groups and individuals who 17 18 are interested in the work of the policy review. 19 The schedule indicates the length 20 of the presentations. What envision taking place is that the presenter or presenters for a 21 22 particular group have the opportunity of making an 23 opening statement. I would like to have the opportunity of asking questions, either during the 24 25 course of that statement or before the allotted

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1 time has expired. I think one of the advantages 2 of this type of process, for me at least, is the opportunity to put specific questions, not for the 3 purpose of challenging, arguing, or anything of 4 that sort, but simply to draw out as much as I can 5 the information and the assistance that people are б providing to me. So I will be doing that. 7 8 I might indicate as well that 9 there will be, after this week of presentations is completed, an opportunity for the parties, if they 10 11 wish, to make responses to anything they heard 12 during the course of the week. We will be 13 publishing a notice with respect to this, but December 19th will be the date by which we will 14 want to have all responses in writing. 15 That will 16 then complete the participation of the different 17 interested parties in the policy review. 18 With that, why don't we get under 19 way. 20 The first group presenting today is the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, 21 22 Mr. Borovoy and Mr. Swan. 23 Would you please go ahead. 24 SUBMISSIONS MR. BOROVOY: 25 Thank you very much.

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1 I should point out that arguing 2 and challenging us is quite permissible, 3 Mr. Commissioner. I have at my left, Ken swan, 4 5 former Chair of our Board and currently still a Vice-President. б Our earlier brief did not 7 8 explicitly address the issue of whether there 9 should be a super SIRC, if you like, created for all of the national security activities at the 10 11 federal level. Since you have explicitly asked the question, our response is yes, there should 12 13 be. We had said earlier that there 14 ought to be an independent auditing of all the 15 national security activity. We do think it would 16 be advantageous to have a single super SIRC for 17 18 all of those activities, RCMP and others at the 19 federal level. 20 You will recall that in our original brief -- if you don't recall, we do -- we 21 22 said something about that the audit agency should 23 have no decision-making power to enforce its view of the world. Its role essentially should be to 24 disclose, expose and propose, but not to decide. 25

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1 In that way, we think that it is 2 especially advantageous for the audit agency to be generally not involved in operational activities 3 and operational decisions. That includes the 4 handling of complaints. 5 Like the RCMP, the complaint 6 agency interacts more or less directly with the 7 8 complainant, in most cases. Like the RCMP, the 9 complaint agency makes decisions that transparently affect the complainant and the RCMP. 10 11 The decision could be to impose discipline or trigger disciplinary proceedings, or not to impose 12 13 discipline or trigger disciplinary proceedings. 14 In the course of doing that, the complaint commission becomes vulnerable to the perception 15 16 and perhaps even the suspicion that it is biased. 17 That is the risk when you make those kind of 18 decisions. 19 To whatever extent an audit agency 20 gets involved at the complaint level, it too could acquire -- could be commensurately affected, if 21

24 Of course we understand that 25 having put out reports in the past, that could

complainant and the RCMP.

you like, by that process in the eyes of the

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1 taint an exclusively audit body as well, but we 2 suggest must less so, because for the most part the situations it will describe in its reports 3 will not be precisely identified and, in any 4 event, it will be making observations rather than 5 making decisions. That could have quite a б differential effect. 7 8 THE COMMISSIONER: So you see 9 separating then, with respect to the RCMP. The complaints function, presumably you are saying, 10 11 would be stay in the CPC. 12 MR. BOROVOY: Right. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: I take your 14 point, you probably suggest it be enhanced with greater powers than it now has. 15 16 But leaving that to the one side 17 for the moment, then you would separate out the 18 audit function when it comes to the RCMP's 19 national security activities only? 20 MR. BOROVOY: Well, let me put this to you: We would say at the very least -- at 21 22 the very lease the audit body should be able to audit the RCMP's national security activities. 23 24 THE COMMISSIONER: That is what I'm saying, as well as the national security 25

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1 activities of all of the others federal actors who are in the national security field. 2 3 MR. BOROVOY: That's right. THE COMMISSIONER: Do you think 4 5 that something would be lost in separating a complaints function for an agency like the RCMP 6 and the audit function for the same agency? 7 8 MR. BOROVOY: Our suggestion is 9 that a lot more would be gained. What we are in fact suggesting is that public confidence in the 10 11 entire security system is likely to be enhanced by the existence of an agency perceived as above the 12 fray that is involved in after-the-fact auditing 13 and reviewing. Indeed, it could also audit and 14 review the activities of the complaint commission. 15 We think there is a real advantage to having that 16 subject to audit as well. 17 18 So that all of this, in our 19 view, would enhance public confidence in our 20 national security system. 21 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you think, 22 Mr. Borovoy, there would be any difficulty with a 23 body having that auditing function for, I think what we have identified as 24 different ministries 24 that potentially are involved in some way in 25

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1 national security activities, having a body that 2 would have expertise to look at what are very different actors, the RCMP being the one that I am 3 concerned about primarily, exercising law 4 5 enforcement police-type powers and then, on the other hand, looking at the national security б activities of CSIS and CSE, but of the Department 7 of Transport and all of these different agencies. 8 9 Is this realistic, that one body could have that breadth of expertise? 10 11 MR. BOROVOY: Do you want to try this, Ken, or shall I? 12 13 MR. SWAN: It's difficult to know 14 in advance whether that is realistic or not, but it seems to us to be at least the right way to 15 16 proceed. A body of that kind could develop sub-expertises within its own operation. Its own 17 18 organization could include people with the kind of 19 particular technical expertise required for each 20 area. There is a considerable advantage 21 22 to having a single oversight body that looks at 23 all of the transactions that may be moved sideways among those agencies, as well as the ones that are 24 entirely interior to any one particular agency. 25

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1 As to how to operationalize that 2 and make it into an operational functioning organization, we can't really say at this point. 3 It seems to us that that is the way we should be 4 5 recommending that the process proceed. THE COMMISSIONER: In asking these 6 questions, as I said at the beginning, I'm simply 7 8 probing. Some of the arguments that would be put 9 against, if I can call it, the all-encompassing agency -- and let me just scroll through them. 10 11 One would be that it would require somebody to define what national security activities of each 12 13 agency or department that are being reviewed would 14 be. I can tell you, and I think 15 16 reading the material you might have seen this, 17 that even trying within the RCMP to separate out 18 what is a national security investigation and what 19 isn't, so that the jurisdiction of this body would 20 reach into 24 agencies and one would have to, for each of those, say the jurisdiction is 21 22 circumscribed to national security activities and 23 analyze thoroughly. The argument that is put against it is that this body will spend its entire 24 25 life triaging cases to determine whether or not it

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1 is a national security activity within the 2 Department of Transport or -- well, CSIS and CSE would be automatic, I would have thought; but 3 other than that. It would devote an inordinate 4 5 amount of time and resources to the triaging exercise. б MR. BOROVOY: Wouldn't that also 7 8 be anticipated that even if it were not a single 9 agency, even if you had several agencies, you still might have that problem? 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, certainly if you have an agency, I think, that is going to 12 13 go to all 24. Some would suggest that the real need for review, if there is one, for audit type 14 of review, is more for the agencies that actually 15 potentially exercise intrusive type powers, that 16 are collectors of information: the RCMP, CSIS, 17 18 CSE, possibly CSA. But that the other 20 -- and 19 this is generalizing -- what they do is, if 20 anything, is pass information, perhaps of a personal nature. 21 22 They engage the concern about 23 civil liberties and intrusive powers in a different way than the prime actors. So I think 24

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to respond to the point you make, one of the

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1 concerns would be, yes, you are going to have to 2 that, not for CSIS and the CSE, but you would for the RCMP and CBSA. 3 That clearly is one of the 4 5 challenges. If I can just ask you another б question, in the CPC's submission to me, they go 7 8 on at some length about the expertise required to 9 deal with complaints, but I think it would pass over to audit, the RCMP. And they would make the 10 11 case that reviewing the RCMP, a law enforcement officer, involves looking at a whole range of 12 13 activities that are unique to the RCMP and require a knowledge of the law, the jurisprudence dealing 14 with police powers, and so on, that are different 15 16 than the standards and policies that would apply to other agencies. 17 18 Do you think that would be a 19 concern for an all-encompassing agency? 20 MR. SWAN: I think it's at least arguable that it is a larger concern that there be 21 a hiving off of expertise into one area without 22 23 some kind of connection between the agencies that work together in a particular national security 24 issue. 25

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1 As long as you have the kind of 2 interface between CSIS and the RCMP, for example, that we have now, there is always a fuzzy area in 3 between. If you try to make the same kind of 4 interface between the review agencies, then the 5 fuzzy area extends to the people who are doing the б reviewing as well. If jurisdiction stops at a 7 8 certain point, then the problem of tracing a 9 particular exercise in national security from say CSIS into the RCMP or the other way around becomes 10 11 very difficult.

12 So while I think we agree that you 13 need a different kind of technical expertise and a different kind of theoretical approach for 14 different kinds of agencies, in the long run, 15 unless there is some way of providing a mechanism 16 17 or structure that can go across those fuzzy lines 18 whenever necessary to follow the information or 19 the concern or the audit trail, then a great deal 20 is going to be lost.

THE COMMISSIONER: Would it be correct that the notion that underlies the need for an overall agency is the fact that national security investigations and activities are integrated and involve more than one agency?

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1 Do I understand that you say the 2 reason we need to address it is because these 3 activities are integrated and therefore the review mechanism, the audit mechanism, must be able to 4 5 cope with the integrated activities to adequately review the full scope of what has been done so б nothing falls between the cracks, so to speak? 7 8 MR. BOROVOY: That's the key, 9 falling between the cracks. 10 THE COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry, I 11 don't mean to talk all this much, but let me just posit: What I struggle with when I look at it is 12 13 that argument, that a review agency that has a 14 wall up, we only look at the RCMP, we only look at CSIS, we only look at CSE, that unless there is 15 16 some mechanism to address the integration of those activities, you are going to bump into walls and 17 18 fall between the cracks. 19 MR. BOROVOY: And the same with 20 public perception of the whole thing and public confidence in the whole arrangement. 21 22 THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead, 23 Mr. Swan. 24 There is some danger, I MR. SWAN: think, as well as to having walls on a horizontal 25

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1 scale, there is some danger of having walls on a 2 vertical scale. When you talk about being able to distinguish between national security operations 3 and non-national security operations within any 4 one agency and that being a jurisdictional problem 5 for the audit agency, that is something we think б should be avoided as well. We think that the 7 8 audit agency should not have to stop where it runs 9 out of a deliberate national security focus for its inquiries, because at some point a national 10 11 security function will devolve into local policing work within the RCMP, for example, or into the 12 13 operation of CSIS agents within CSIS itself. There shouldn't be any particular 14 lower limit to the review agency or the audit 15 agency's function simply because you have run out 16 of the that national security mandate. 17 They 18 should be entitled, at least, to inquire beyond 19 that. 20 We would like to see any artificial barrier to inquiry by the audit 21 22 agency --23 THE COMMISSIONER: Both horizontally and vertically. 24 25 MR. SWAN: Both horizontally and

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vertically, removed, or at least made very rubbery
 indeed.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: If one accepts 4 the notion that there should be this audit type of 5 function carried out by a review body, a certain 6 type of -- I think if what you are talking about 7 without --

MR. SWAN: Super SIRC.

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9 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, without adopting holus bolus. We are talking about a SIRC 10 11 type of audit, so for the RCMP's national security activities in the future, we would still have the 12 13 complaints process, but in addition, presumably 14 because of the transparency or lack of transparency of national security activities, we 15 would have this new audit function that would be 16 carried out. 17

18 There has been a suggestion 19 made -- accepting that there should be that type 20 of audit function for national security activities -- that the review bodies should be 21 22 agency-specific, even for the audit function, so 23 that the CPC, for example, would do complaints and the audit; SIRC would do for CSIS and the CSE 24 Commissioner would for CSE. But because of the 25

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1 integration problem that we spoke of, then you 2 need a mechanism to join the existing review bodies, a coordinating committee to -- where there 3 is an integration problem, to force those review 4 bodies or to have them work in a cooperative way 5 to deal with integration problems. б 7 Do you have any comment on that 8 proposal? 9 MR. BOROVOY: You are making it sound like a veritable nightmare, and I suspect 10 11 that's probably the answer to it: that the whole 12 thing would just become an administrative 13 nightmare. 14 THE COMMISSIONER: And why would you say that? You would have the review body over 15 16 the particular agency, and then when a case showed 17 that there had been integrated activities, as 18 between two or three agencies, then there would be 19 a coordinating committee perhaps of the chairs of 20 the review bodies, or whoever, who would then ensure that the reviews that took place, the 21 22 audits that took place, took into consideration 23 the integrated activity so nothing did slip 24 between the cracks.

25 MR. BOROVOY: I confess I have

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1 never been involved in this kind of audit. Ι always have to imagine this when I hear about it. 2 I would think that it's better to 3 have the investigators be able to follow leads 4 where they take them rather than to have to worry 5 about sitting down with the chairs and 6 coordinating who is going to do what. 7 8 Investigators following leads 9 where they take them. I would think that would simplify the process. 10 11 MR. SWAN: Just to add to that, the higher the level at which information is 12 13 exchanged, it seems likely the less information that will actually flow. 14 So if all the information has to 15 16 go up in order to go across in a chair's committee, then it is more likely to get lost than 17 18 it would if it flows across at an operational 19 level. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: Are there any other ideas that occur to you about dealing with 21 22 the integration problem? 23 The reason I ask the question is to come back to the point I made earlier, that 24 some argue that the super agency, as I think it 25

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1 has been called in some of the submissions, that 2 would span a wide range of ministries will itself 3 suffer from a lack of practicality, if I can put it that way, difficulty in sort of reaching in to 4 5 so many places. Is there anything else that occurs 6 7 to you, other ways to address the integration 8 problem? 9 I take it you are not enamoured by the suggestion that I think exists in at least one 10 11 or two of the European countries where they have statutory gateways. It is the type of idea that I 12 13 was mentioning. It is mandated by statute for cooperation between review bodies sharing 14 information, and so on. 15 Does that fall short of the mark 16 as you see it? 17 18 MR. BOROVOY: I would think it 19 does. I would think that this would be a more 20 efficient and effective way of managing it. I also acknowledge that this is 21 22 coming from a non-expert in the area of 23 bureaucracy. It has been my good fortune, lo these many years, not to work in a bureaucracy. 24 I don't like to show off. 25

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: You can tell 2 from my questions that one thing I'm struggling with is if one accepts that there is going to be 3 an audit and accepts there is an integration 4 problem, that as I look at the different 5 proposals, I quickly see yellow lights flashing б that say "be careful about creating something that 7 8 turns out to be a nightmare", as you suggest with 9 the one proposal that I put forward. We haven't had a lot of 10 11 experience, in Canada at least, or any experience with the solution to this type of dilemma. 12 That 13 is what I am struggling with. 14 MR. BOROVOY: I'm usually careful 15 to say to people when I am trying to persuade them 16 to accept my proposals that I acknowledge that there are problems with these proposals, but they 17 18 must be compared, as a former finance minister 19 once said, not to the all mighty, but to the 20 alternatives. THE COMMISSIONER: Can I move to 21 22 another area for questioning. 23 MR. BOROVOY: Sure. We were prepared to move to some others as well. 24 25 THE COMMISSIONER: Would you

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1 rather carry on with your presentation? 2 MR. BOROVOY: I'm easy. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Why don't you, then. 4 5 MR. BOROVOY: There was just a couple of other things we were going to comment б 7 on. 8 THE COMMISSIONER: Sure. 9 MR. BOROVOY: Another issue that keeps raising its head in a lot of these 10 11 considerations deals with how you handle the meshing, the interactions of various review 12 13 agencies. And almost invariably the question 14 What about the independence of the comes up: 15 police? 16 It just occurred to us to try to deal with this more up front, if you like, because 17 18 it is something that has bothered our organization 19 for some time. And that is the relationship in 20 this country between the politicians and the 21 police. 22 As I understand the law and the 23 practice in Canada, the minister may issue broad policy directives to the police but must not 24 interfere in day-to-day specific activities. 25 And

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1 this is done in order to reduce the risks of politicizing the police. 2 3 A perfectly legitimate objective, but I fear that the price that is paid is in 4 accountability, ministerial accountability for 5 police activity. б If you could imagine a situation 7 8 arising when a minister may find out that the 9 police have targeted someone that she thinks in principle should not be targeted or are using 10 11 tactics that she thinks are improper, unless she is an in a position to say you don't do that, her 12 13 ability to account for what the police are doing 14 becomes extremely limited. Some of the hearings of your very 15 commission I think illustrate this terrifically. 16 When Mr. Cavalluzzo was questioning Minister 17 18 Graham about his experiences as Foreign Minister 19 and he asked whether it wouldn't have been better 20 for him to have had more information about the Arar case when he sat down to discuss it with 21 22 Secretary of State Powell of the United States, 23 the answer was, "I'm not supposed to. That is wrong for the minister to know these things." And 24 Cavalluzzo pressed him, and he said something to 25

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1 the effect that what I understand, then, is that 2 if a rookie officer was working on the file, he 3 could wind up knowing more than the minister knows when you have to sit down on some kind of level 4 playing field with the U.S. Secretary of State. 5 And again, the answer is that is our doctrine in б To which, I suppose my most polite 7 this country. 8 response is, that strikes me as nuts, how we can 9 have a set-up like that.

In any event, why should we assume 10 that all the questionable political motives exist 11 in the government? The police are sometimes 12 13 accused of this as well, and indeed all the other 14 prejudices that it is alleged govern their operations, whether it is racism or homophobia. 15 At different times, these are allegations that we 16 know that are made. 17

So as between the appointed police and the elected government, why should it be the police that have the right to make the last mistake?

As a result, we think that the system should be altered so that the minister is in a position to learn what is happening and to direct, but subject -- because we understand it

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1 still would be a problem -- subject, first of all, 2 that it be a requirement that it be put in writing, and that the aura of putting it in 3 writing or that rather the obligation to put it in 4 5 writing engulfs the relationship in that kind of б aura. Here I can envision it -- and I 7 8 haven't been a fly on the wall, nor have I been 9 involved in any of these relationships. But I could see if the minister says something to the 10 11 Commissioner and the Commissioner says put it in writing, minister. 12 13 And the second thing that this be 14 subject to audit also. In our view, this would be a significantly less bad way to order the 15 16 relationship. That is the second submission we 17 18 wanted to make. 19 THE COMMISSIONER: To come back to 20 the example that you used at the beginning of your point, you would say, then, if the minister wanted 21 22 to obtain information about a particular 23 situation, an operational situation, he or she should be entitled to make inquiries? 24 25 MR. BOROVOY: And insist on

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1 replies.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Then the second 3 step of that is if the minister wanted to give directions with respect to an operation or 4 whatever, then that should be done in writing? 5 MR. BOROVOY: That's right. б 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Is what you are 8 suggesting, Mr. Borovoy, confined to national 9 security investigations or is it just a general principle that should apply to policing across the 10 11 board? 12 MR. BOROVOY: We are choosing national security. We say at least that. I could 13 14 live with it right across the board, because again it would be subject to the requirement of having 15 16 it in writing and amenable to an independent audit. 17 18 THE COMMISSIONER: That would go 19 against the current jurisprudence, certainly I 20 guess starting back with Lord Denning. 21 MR. BOROVOY: The beauty of being 22 a Commissioner is you are in a position to 23 legislate. 24 THE COMMISSIONER: To recommend only. 25

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1 MR. BOROVOY: I understand, but 2 you have an unlimited mandate to fantasize about 3 legislating. --- Laughter / Rires 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Your next point? 6 Just an additional 7 MR. SWAN: 8 point on that, of course I assume you are 9 referring to the Attorney General from New South Wales and Perpetual Trustee. That was a case 10 11 about a traffic accident, as I recall. So I don't really know why we should have allowed a judge 12 13 sitting on a traffic accident case to have evolved 14 public policy on control of police for all time. THE COMMISSIONER: No, no. I take 15 your point. 16 It certainly has become, I think as Mr. Borovoy points out, a well-entrenched sort of 17 18 principle in Canada. But I agree, it doesn't mean 19 it shouldn't be looked at. 20 MR. BOROVOY: Another issue that has not come up, as far as I know in these circles 21 22 but we think that there is a real case for it --23 and here we are drawing on an experience we had as an organization, of attempting -- this deals now 24 with the courts as another review agency and one 25

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1 of the limitations on the ability of the courts to 2 be helpful in this area is a self-imposed one and it deals with the rules of standing. 3 We had occasion to want to 4 challenge the Constitutionality of the powers 5 available to CSIS and we were ruled out of court. 6 We were denied standing on the grounds of our 7 8 evidence, that there wasn't a sufficient 9 evidentiary base for our position. We were quite upfront in acknowledging, in fact we said of 10 11 course we don't have adequate evidence. You can't 12 get it. The whole idea is that these powers are 13 going to be exercised surreptitiously. And if the whole scheme of 14 preventive law enforcement does its job, a lot of 15 these cases will never get to a courtroom. 16 So 17 there will be no way, as a practical matter, to 18 challenge the constitutionality of these kinds of 19 powers. 20 The obvious suggestion is a recommendation that there be legislation 21 22 effectively directing the courts not to use the 23 lack of evidence as a basis to deny standing where what is involved is the surreptitious exercise of 24

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intrusive powers.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Just so that I 2 am clear, what you are aiming at, then, is in any situation where the lack of evidence results from 3 the inability of the party seeking standing to 4 obtain the evidence because the information would 5 be either part of surreptitious exercise of powers 6 7 and otherwise protected by national security 8 concerns but, in any event, would be --9 MR. BOROVOY: Or at least in situations where they are not supposed to have 10 11 access to the evidence. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. Yes. Ι 13 understand. Okay. 14 I have a few questions. in other 15 areas. 16 MR. BOROVOY: You go ahead. 17 THE COMMISSIONER: You finish your 18 shopping list first, or do you want me to --19 MR. BOROVOY: No. We can trade 20 back and forth on these. 21 THE COMMISSIONER: Let me ask you 22 about the complaints process with respect to the 23 RCMP, the one that is now in place and just your comments on a number of features of it. 24 25 The complaints process that is

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1 there now contemplates that the first 2 investigation be done by the Force itself and 3 there is, as you are aware, the capacity for the complaints body to conduct a follow-up 4 5 investigation. Do you have any comment on that, 6 7 whether that is a useful technique, approach or 8 otherwise? 9 MR. BOROVOY: You bet we do. We have long been critical not only of the RCMP 10 11 arrangement, but other policing arrangements that contemplate, as the usual practice, for the 12 13 investigations to be done by the police 14 themselves. 15 For these purposes I can do little 16 better than quote an RCMP Sergeant a number of 17 years ago at the Donald Marshall Inquiry in 18 Halifax when he was asked why the RCMP pulled its 19 punches when it reviewed the Sydney, Nova Scotia 20 police investigation. His answer was: "police are like a fraternity, you feel a special 21 22 relationship with one another", something like 23 that. Well, if that is true when it is one police force and another, how much more true is this 24 likely to be when it is all in the same police. 25

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1 Or, if I may argue in the alternative, at the very 2 least it is going to be perceived that way. 3 It is so important in these things that there be the right kind of perception 4 5 created. The difficulty is -- or I should 6 say to me what strikes me as significant is 7 8 throughout our society we are moving in the direction of reducing conflicts of interest. 9 Here there is a clear conflict of interest, and for 10 11 some reason we are clinging to it. Our view is 12 that that is not appropriate. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: As you are 14 aware -- I quess it is not a universally accepted practice in Canada, but there are a number of 15 review bodies across Canada that take that 16 17 approach, do they not, where the police force does 18 the initial investigation, not the final 19 investigation but the initial one? 20 MR. BOROVOY: No, no, that's I'm just saying, we had occasion to 21 right. 22 criticize it in those places as well. 23 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 24 Another issue that is raised in the further questions that the Commission 25

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1 distributed was a matter of a special advocate and 2 the use in hearings, complaint hearings or whatever other hearings may be involved in the 3 review of national security activities, hearings 4 that are in part held in camera -- a matter that I 5 have become quite familiar with -- because of б national security concerns, legitimate national 7 8 security concerns. 9 Do you have any comments with respect to the use of special advocates and the 10 11 limits on it? 12 I think some people sensibly have 13 said that it is a good idea but it shouldn't be in every case, that there should be some sort of 14 parameters around the use of it. 15 16 I don't know, has your association 17 looked at this and do you have any suggestions. 18 MR. BOROVOY: I can't recall 19 having thought through limits to it. We are quite 20 aware of the fact that it might still leave the situation with a less than adequate arrangement, 21 22 but I think it is fair to say it would probably be 23 less inadequate than any alternative we can imagine that there be public interest, 24 security-cleared advocates who could not give this 25

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1 information to their so-called client. 2 For these purposes I recall one 3 comment made by a British court, at least in one case, that it found the cross-examination 4 conducted in camera by the special advocate 5 particularly helpful. б I must say another source that has 7 8 been particularly helpful is the press conference 9 that Paul Cavalluzzo gave on this very subject. As I sat and listened to him, I became even more 10 11 persuaded than had been before I heard him say it, 12 that he felt his own experience testified to the 13 value it could have. 14 THE COMMISSIONER: Interesting in the discussion about this issue -- it is just an 15 observation of mine -- the role is often described 16 as amicus curiae, leaving aside the fact that it 17 18 is not a court. But it strikes me that there 19 actually is a difference between the role that 20 amicus plays and the role that a special advocate 21 might play. 22 I sort of haven't thought it all 23 through, but --24 MR. BOROVOY: I think what is envisioned here is that since the impugned person, 25

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1 if you like, is the one who is left without 2 effective counsel, that the idea is for this 3 advocate to be that person's counsel THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. 4 5 MR. BOROVOY: So actually representing, as best that he can in the 6 7 circumstances, that person's interests. In that way, that does differ from --8 9 THE COMMISSIONER: From an amicus. 10 MR. BOROVOY: Sure. 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. 12 MR. BOROVOY: Which is a role that 13 our organization often plays. We instruct our 14 lawyers in these situations: Remember, we are not there as cheerleaders for any party. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. Yes. 17 It is an interesting point when 18 one thinks about it as to actually the loyalty and 19 who the client is actually for that advocate. 20 One of the other issues that is raised in the further questions is this matter of 21 22 access to documents and access to personnel. 23 Let's take it for both a complaints process and an 24 audit process. 25 I don't have to ask you whether

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you are in favour of broad access, but one of the 1 2 issues --3 MR. BOROVOY: I just feel so bad being so predictable. 4 5 --- Laughter / Rires THE COMMISSIONER: Surprise me. 6 7 One of the issues that arises, 8 though, is the question of privileges. There is 9 the issue of solicitor-client privilege, issue of Cabinet privilege, and so on. 10 11 Let me just ask you: What position would you take with respect to access to 12 privileged documents? 13 14 MR. BOROVOY: I turn to my 15 authority. 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. 17 MR. SWAN: We have actually given 18 this a fair deal of recent thought because of the 19 questions that you sent out. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. MR. SWAN: I think we can 21 22 appreciate that there might be a role for 23 solicitor-client privilege -- say for the RCMP if we are talking about a complaint structure 24 there -- in relation to the complaint itself. 25 In

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1 other words, when the complaint is founded the 2 RCMP is entitled to take -- or the particular officer is entitled to take legal advice and to 3 have that advice protected by the usual privilege. 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. MR. SWAN: As we understand it, 6 the question goes beyond that and it is in 7 8 circumstances where the Force says that it has 9 acted on legal advice given in relation to another matter --10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. 12 MR. SWAN: -- and then it says 13 that document is protected by some kind of 14 privilege. We think that in those 15 circumstances, if the RCMP had that document in 16 order to make its decision and to inform its 17 18 actions, then the complaints agency first of all, 19 and certainly the audit agency, has to have the 20 same access that they had. Any other limitation would leave them simply unable to judge the 21 22 propriety of what took place. We think there the 23 claim for privilege is very different from what it is in relation to a particular complaint 24 25 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

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1 MR. SWAN: So our position would 2 be for at least solicitor-client privilege, having acted upon it the Force effectively has waived any 3 privilege that may have existed beforehand. 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: So a privilege attached, if you will, as part of the events that 6 are being audited or are subject matter of the 7 8 complaint, then the review body should have 9 access, should not be restricted by that. But a privilege that attached with respect to actually 10 11 adjudicating the complaint itself, a privilege for an officer -- or indeed I suppose possibly the 12 13 Force, I'm not sure about that -- but if they took legal advice as to how to conduct themselves and 14 to put forward their position within the course of 15 the proceeding itself, then that would be off 16 limits? 17 18 MR. SWAN: At least in that 19 proceeding, yes In that 20 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. proceeding, yes. I think I understand. 21 22 Another privilege that arises is 23 informer privilege that is sometimes claimed that would come up in a law enforcement investigation. 24 I suppose it may be comparable to the privilege 25

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1 that attaches to sources and the security 2 intelligence world with CSIS. There may be 3 differences but, in any ,event do you have any comment with respect to informer privilege. 4 5 MR. SWAN: Obviously this is more difficult because in some circumstances at least 6 it can endanger the lives or safety of the 7 8 informer or the source. But we don't see it so 9 much as a matter of privilege as a matter of protection of information. There seems to be no 10 11 reason, from our point of view, why if the identity of the informer or the source is material 12 13 to the inquiry or the audit that it shouldn't be available on a confidential and protected basis to 14 the auditors or the complaints commission itself. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: If the identity is actually relevant. Because in a lot of cases 17 18 the identity won't be relevant. 19 MR. SWAN: Obviously you would 20 only treat sensitive information like that. I use the words "sensitive information" as opposed to 21 22 "privileged information", because I think the

23 privilege really attaches to it when it goes to 24 court and is discussed in public. In private it 25 is really sensitive information that has to be

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1 protected, but shouldn't be kept away from the 2 inquiry or from the audit body merely on the basis 3 that it would be privileged somewhere else. THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Finally, 4 5 what about Cabinet privilege? MR. SWAN: I guess we wonder why б the RCMP for example would have information that 7 8 had Cabinet privilege attached to it. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: It would be unlikely, I would have thought. 10 11 MR. SWAN: But if they did, and if it was relevant to the inquiry or to the audit, 12 13 then perhaps on the same basis it ought to be 14 available. THE COMMISSIONER: Just shifting 15 16 gears, one other question that comes to mind as I think about various issues is, I harken back to 17 18 the McDonald Commission and the lines that were 19 drawn with respect to national security between 20 the role of the civilian security agency, as you well, know, and the RCMP and law enforcement 21 22 agencies. 23 I'm wondering, when one looks at the principles that Justice McDonald laid down in 24

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his report, whether or not those principles are as

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1 true today as they were then, in your view. 2 Second, assuming some of them or 3 all of them are, what guidance, if any, do those principles give us with respect to review, 4 audit -- and dealing with audit. 5 It has been suggested that if one 6 blends the audit function, the review function of 7 CSIS and the RCMP, at least in terms of review, 8 9 one is then moving back to beginning to blur the lines between the two types of functions even more 10 11 and moving back sort of to pre-McDonald days, starting in that direction. 12 13 MR. BOROVOY: For whatever it's worth -- for whatever it's worth we said to the 14 McDonald Commission -- I have to confess to being 15 16 that old but I appeared, and so did he -- appeared before the McDonald Commission. 17 18 --- Laughter / Rires 19 MR. BOROVOY: We said it then and 20 we said it at subsequent reviews: In our view, it was never appropriate to separate national 21 security intelligence and law enforcement in the 22 23 way that was ultimately done. 24 One of the reasons we said it was in the interests of maximizing the protection of 25

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civil liberties. This doesn't mean, I should 1 2 hasten to point out, that it had to be the RCMP, 3 it might have been some other arrangement, but our view was that law enforcement and security 4 5 intelligence gathering should not be subject to that kind of rigid separation. б We drew a lot of our sustenance 7 8 for this from the experience in the United States 9 Levy was Attorney General -- this was under Ford. I'm not just showing off you understand. 10 11 --- Laughter / Rires 12 MR. BOROVOY: One of the arguments 13 used at that time, they actually merged -- as far as domestic intelligence is concerned of the FBI, 14 15 they merged their domestic intelligence activity 16 with their general criminal investigative body. It was done so that as much as possible -- their 17 18 words -- intelligence, domestic intelligence work and law enforcement would be done in the same way. 19 20 The whole idea being that the discipline of law enforcement and the realization that you may have 21 22 to answer for this in court sometime was a rather 23 salutary experience. THE COMMISSIONER: On the domestic 24

25 intelligence function?

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1 MR. BOROVOY: Yes. 2 THE COMMISSIONER: But didn't they 3 subsequently, though, within the FBI begin to build, as we have heard, walls between the two 4 functions so that the one wouldn't become tainted 5 by the other? б MR. BOROVOY: I understand. 7 Ι 8 haven't had occasion to go into it the way we did 9 at the time of the McDonald Commission, but for the longest time it was apparently working rather 10 11 well, and the argument was that the FBI had turned the corner for some time as far as civil liberties 12 13 were concerned. 14 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. That's 15 interesting. That is an interesting background actually. I didn't realize that had been the 16 position that your association took back then. 17 18 MR. BOROVOY: Yes. Now you see it 19 is in the realm of showing off for me to say that. 20 --- Laughter / Rires MR. SWAN: And 25 years from now 21 22 he will say it again. 23 --- Laughter / Rires 24 THE COMMISSIONER: Let's hope so. 25 MR. BOROVOY: As they say, from

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1 your mouth to God's ears. 2 THE COMMISSIONER: Are there any 3 other questions or any submissions, other matters that you would like to address? 4 5 MR. BOROVOY: I think that covers it all. б I hate to say it, but it might 7 8 actually be that we have shot our bolt. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Swan, do 10 you agree? 11 Let me thank you again for both 12 your written submissions and coming today. Ι 13 thought it was particularly appropriate. As you 14 realize, there were a couple of presentations scheduled earlier today and for reasons they had 15 to be rescheduled to later in the week. 16 So I 17 thought it was appropriate that we lead off, Mr. 18 Borovoy and Mr. Swan, with you as it goes back with a touch of history on this issue. 19 20 So I appreciate very much your 21 thoughts. 22 MR. BOROVOY: Thank you. Our 23 pleasure. 24 MR. SWAN: Thank you. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

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1 We might as well just carry on, if 2 people are happy without a break. 3 Mr. Scott Burbidge is next. SUBMISSIONS 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Burbidge, you are welcome to stand if you want or see, as б 7 you see fit. 8 MR. BURBIDGE: Thank you. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Are you happy there? 10 11 If I can, just before you begin, introduce our next presenter to people who may not 12 13 know who he is. He is a retired federal official. He worked, I guess, with the Department of Justice 14 and the Solicitor General's department for a 15 16 number of years. 17 Is that correct? 18 MR. BURBIDGE: Only the Solicitor 19 General. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: But you were involved actively with the RCMP from the Solicitor 21 22 General's perspective? 23 MR. BURBIDGE: Very much so, as a Research Officer and as a Policy Advisor on 24 policing and law enforcement matters. 25

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: The other thing 2 I can just sort of comment to people is anybody who has been reading the submissions that have 3 come in about this will know that from the very 4 5 beginning of the policy review, Mr. Burbidge has contacted the Commission and made submissions now б 7 on three separate occasions. 8 I think I am embarrassing him a 9 little, but let me finish. I think it is quite remarkable that an individual who is not 10 11 associated with a group, who is now retired, has 12 taken the time to do this. The quality of the 13 presentations, I'm sure anybody who has read them will agree, is just excellent. 14 We at the Commissioner are very 15 16 indebted for your interest and your help. 17 MR. BURBIDGE: Thank you very 18 much. 19 THE COMMISSIONER: If you are 20 comfortable with following the same format that I did with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, 21 22 if you have a presentation and then I will have 23 questions for you. 24 MR. BURBIDGE: I have a few general comments, but I also feel a strong sense 25

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1 of obligation to be available to respond to all of the things that I have written, because this is 2 the first time that you have had a chance to 3 challenge or explore what I have put in writing. 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Why don't you start with your general comments and then I will 6 7 explore. 8 MR. BURBIDGE: My first comment I 9 guess has to do with the question before this policy review. It seems to me that the question 10 11 has become much broader as time has gone on. 12 Because the initial question, as I 13 understand it, driving the policy review, was the need for an arm's-length review of RCMP national 14 security activities, but as the debate has evolved 15 16 it seems to me that the question now is what to do about review, including audit and addressing 17 18 public complaints for the whole area of national 19 security, particularly at the federal level which, 20 as you mentioned earlier, Commissioner, includes 23 different agencies. 21 22 My first main point that follows 23 from that is that I think there has been a huge

24 expansion in the number of issues that are
25 addressed when you move from the narrower

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question, if I may characterize it that way, to
 the broader question.

3 That means, in my thinking, that it is much more difficult to think of one super 4 agency, however large, however well-resourced, 5 that could come to grips with all of this 6 diversity in terms of legislative mandates, 7 8 organizational cultures, programs and activities 9 of all of the federal departments concerned and, within that, the very marked differences that have 10 11 evolved -- even if they weren't there prior to McDonald -- between what I call the security 12 13 intelligence community, on the one hand, as 14 opposed to the law enforcement community, which includes the activities by the RCMP and other 15 police and law enforcement, focus on the 16 17 prevention, investigation and enforcement 18 Vis-à-vis national security offenses, including 19 terrorist offenses. 20 So I think there is a huge scope there for any one agency to address. 21

There is another element here which makes it even more difficult, because in my view, as you have seen in my submissions, it is clear that the provinces and provincially

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1 authorized police and provincial Attorneys General are important players in the national security 2 activities as I have defined them. 3 So all of this leads me to suggest 4 that at least at the onset it would seem to be 5 very, very difficult to come up with an agency or 6 to describe a mandate for an agency in terms of 7 8 legislation resourcing structure and so forth that 9 would be able to cover off adequately all of this diversity whether or not it had the audit function 10 11 as well as a public complaints function. So this leads to my second major 12 13 This has been at least implicit in my point. submissions. I think we need, at least in the 14 short term, an incremental approach to these 15 16 questions, so the question of review and audit. Second, we need to focus within 17 18 each of the two areas before we start building 19 bridges across them. In other words, I am trying 20 to focus on the preventive investigative and enforcement area and leaving a side for the moment 21 22 the security intelligence function of identifying 23 threats to national security. So I am talking essentially about the police and law enforcement 24 community, including not only the RCMP but 25

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1 provincially authorized police, as well as other 2 law enforcement groups such as Revenue Canada, 3 Customs and Immigration officials. So my argument, or my view, is 4 that we should focus on strengthening the 5 authority and the capacity of existing review б agencies to address public complaints arising from 7 8 the activities not only of the RCMP but of 9 provincially authorized police engaged in or involved in integrated activities in relation to 10 11 when the complaints arise from national security 12 activities. 13 So that the same agency handles 14 complaints, whether they have to do with national security activities of the RCMP or provincially 15 authorized police, or activities in relation to 16 other criminal matters. 17 18 I think the hypothetical example 19 that speaks to this is the first case. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: The one in the 21 further questions. 22 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes, in the first 23 case. 24 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I 25 remember it.

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1 MR. BURBIDGE: Commissioner, I am 2 just running through these points very briefly, 3 but feel free to challenge me. THE COMMISSIONER: I am making 4 5 notes of questions. Should I let you finish your presentation and then -б 7 MR. BURBIDGE: I have one more 8 comment in relation to that main point. 9 The other reason, in my view -and to me it is a very important one for looking 10 11 ways and means of strengthening the mandate and the capacity of existing review agencies, 12 13 including on the one hand the CPC at the federal level for the RCMP and, on the other hand, 14 provincially authorized public police complaints 15 16 authorities. 17 The reason for strengthening the 18 authority of these agencies is that there has 19 always been very strong opposition from the police 20 to the existence and activities of public complaints authorities. That opposition existed 21 22 long before September 11th and we have seen many 23 examples of that since September 11th, including those documented in various reports and 24 presentations made by Shirley Heafey, the recently 25

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1 retired Head of the CPC.

2 So in the short term I am arguing 3 for an incremental approach that really implies that the response to the policy question is to 4 enlarge and enhance the role of the CPC so it can 5 handle complaints whether they a rise from б national security activities or other criminal 7 8 matters. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: So you would see that the enhancement of the CPC would be 10 11 across the board, so there would be a uniform complaint system for the RCMP with whatever 12 13 enhancements. 14 MR. BURBIDGE: That is correct. THE COMMISSIONER: There would be 15 16 nothing unique about the complaint system for national security activities, it would be the same 17 18 as all of --19 MR. BURBIDGE: Precisely. I think 20 the hypothetical case No. 1 could illustrate how difficult it would be if that were not the case, 21 22 because you have one group of investigators 23 laying, or contemplating laying a series of charges, some of which may be terrorist offenses, 24 others may not be, and you have the investigative 25

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1 activity involving not only RCMP but other police 2 forces involved in these so-called integrated units as well. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: How would you 4 see the CPC being enhanced? What would you see 5 would be the main things that need to be done to б enhance its complaint process? 7 8 MR. BURBIDGE: Well, as we are all 9 aware, the CPC recently went to the Federal Court seeking authorization to access documents related 10 11 to the investigation of complaints vis-à-vis national security activities of the RCMP and the 12 13 RCMP had denied access to these documents. 14 So that one important area for the strengthening of the CPC is to ensure that it has 15 the authority to access all documents and all 16 individuals that are deemed relevant to any 17 18 particular inquiry. 19 THE COMMISSIONER: Should that 20 include individuals and documents that are outside the RCMP? 21 22 So that should the CPC, if it is 23 relevant, be able to reach out to other government departments, other police forces and to private 24 citizens, if necessary, with subpoena powers? 25

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1 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes, I would 2 hope that would be the case. But there are different -- I would like a brief comment on 3 each area, if I may. 4 With regard to other police 5 forces, it is my understanding that if the 6 complaints refer to provincially authorized police 7 8 that are, for example, involved in an integrated 9 RCMP-led antiterrorist unit, then the body with jurisdiction over the conduct of that provincially 10 11 authorized police officer or officers is, first of all, the internal disciplinary procedures of the 12 13 police force in question and, second, the provincial police complaints authority for that 14 officer's native province. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Accepting that, the body to deal with complaints against the 17 18 provincial officer or the discipline of the 19 provincial officer is the provincial body. 20 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 21 THE COMMISSIONER: Just accepting 22 that for the purpose of discussion, should, 23 though, the CPC, in pursuing a complaint against an RCMP officer, be entitled, if it is relevant, 24 have subpoena powers to obtain documents from 25

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1 sources outside the RCMP, including, potentially, 2 provincial police forces? MR. BURBIDGE: 3 This is beyond my expertise by a long shot, Commissioner, but I 4 5 would hope that one way or another the CPC should have access to any relevant documents. б 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 8 MR. BURBIDGE: But I could 9 envisage a cooperative agreement between CPC and provincial public complaints authorities to, 10 11 wherever appropriate --12 THE COMMISSIONER: To facilitate 13 that. 14 MR. BURBIDGE: -- share all relevant information relating to investigations 15 that involve both RCMP officers and members of 16 provincially authorized police forces. 17 18 THE COMMISSIONER: Let's come back 19 to what I call integration problems in a minute. 20 Are there other powers or enhancements that you think the CPC would need, 21 22 assuming the broad access to documents and 23 personnel you refer to? Is there anything else that you envision the CPC would need in order to 24 appropriately carry out its complaint function? 25

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1 MR. BURBIDGE: Because we are 2 dealing with national security or activities of the RCMP involved in national security, there 3 might be a question from time to time of documents 4 or activities of CSIS or some other federal agency 5 with a national security role. One would hope 6 that the CPC would be able to have access to those 7 8 kinds of documents as well. 9 Here again, one would hope that there would be an ongoing working relationship 10 11 between the CPC and SIRC or whatever the 12 appropriate review authority was on the security 13 intelligence side. I should emphasize that I'm 14 speaking here of measures in the short term to 15 16 strengthen and affirm the importance of the review 17 function, whether it is the audit activity or the 18 addressing of public complaints in relation to 19 national security activities. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: And let me ask you, then, about that. As you are aware, many 21 proposed that there should be, in addition to a 22 23 complaint function, an audit function for national security activities, the rationale being that 24 25 these are often carried out in a very

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1 non-transparent way and complaint function might 2 fall short of the mark, so you need an additional audit function. 3 First of all, do you have any 4 comment on the need for an audit function; and 5 secondly, where should it reside? б I think the audit 7 MR. BURBIDGE: 8 function is very important and it is complementary 9 to the public complaint function. As Shirley Heafey has pointed out in her submissions, relying 10 11 solely on public complaints is a very inadequate way of keeping up with or ensuring the propriety 12 13 of the national security activities of the RCMP in the national security area. 14 So I think the audit function is 15 16 very important. 17 Having said that, there are 18 several caveats for me. 19 One is that there are many 20 different purposes for audits, and I think it's terribly important here -- and again I'm going 21 22 back to my understanding of McDonald here -- that 23 the fundamental starting point for the lawful conduct of the RCMP must lie in a rigorous 24 oversight activity by the minister as envisaged 25

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1 under section 5 of the RCMP Act.

2 As part of this oversight, policy oversight function of the minister, which I 3 believe is still valid, as valid as it was when 4 the legislation was written, part of this 5 oversight activity is the need for the minister to 6 verify in an ongoing fashion RCMP compliance with 7 8 Ministerial Directives and any other concerns that 9 he or she may have with regard to RCMP priorities or programs or activities. 10

11 So I think it is important to have a clearly demarcated or division of labour between 12 13 the audits performed by the review agency for the 14 purpose of ensuring that RCMP activities fully respect human rights on the one hand, and audits 15 conducted with the authority of the minister to 16 17 look at a whole range of issues, including 18 compliance with specific Ministerial Directives 19 with issues, directives possibly regarding 20 measures of effectiveness or efficiency or 21 whatever.

22 So I think there are two kinds of 23 audits from this point of view.

24THE COMMISSIONER: And would you25see them done by different people?

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1 MR. BURBIDGE: Very much so. This 2 relates to another issue here, and that is the question of whether a review authority should have 3 the authority to provide direction to the RCMP in 4 this particular case based on findings in relation 5 to audits or the investigation of public б 7 complaints. 8 I think the issue here is the role 9 of the review authority versus the role of the minister. My understanding of McDonald is that it 10 11 should be the minister's role and only the minister to provide policy direction to the RCMP. 12 13 That policy direction can include 14 directives arising from investigations and findings by the CPC, but it should not be the role 15 of the CPC to provide policy direction to the 16 17 RCMP. 18 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Borovoy 19 just made essentially the same point, I think. Не 20 thought it would be a difficulty for maybe the perception of the independence of that body. 21 22 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 23 THE COMMISSIONER: I noticed, Mr. Burbidge, in one of your written submissions 24 you mentioned the use of the Inspector General, 25

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1 the possibility of that to assist. 2 Would that be to assist the 3 minister with the minister's audit function as you just described it? 4 5 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. We have one minister responsible for both CSIS and the RCMP. б So we have to have somewhere in the bureaucracy, a 7 8 group of policy advisors and analysts whose job it 9 is to keep track of activities of each agency and to keep a sharp lookout for activities which might 10 11 suggest that one agency is stepping outside its 12 mandate or infringing on the mandate of the other 13 agency; and with a responsibility to advise the 14 minister on any issues or policy issues that are arising and to enable the minister to carry out 15 16 his responsibility, which in both cases is to 17 provide policy direction to the agency. 18 THE COMMISSIONER: So would you 19 see it being the same person or office, the 20 Inspector General for both CSIS and the RCMP? Certainly the same minister, reporting to the same 21 22 minister? 23 MR. BURBIDGE: Well, yes, in the sense that because there is a link between the 24 national security activities of CSIS and those of 25

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1 the RCMP, it would be valuable to have, as part of 2 the minister's oversight mechanisms, one office with the mandate to keep track of how each agency 3 is or is not following ministerial direction in 4 5 their national security activities, but also, and very importantly, looking at what I would call б boundary issues, keeping track of those boundary 7 8 issues. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: As between the 10 two. 11 MR. BURBIDGE: As between the two. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: The McDonald 13 division. 14 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 15 THE COMMISSIONER: So you would 16 see the Inspector General then would be not an enforcer, but an inspector, I guess, of the 17 18 division that McDonald recommended and that was 19 adopted. 20 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 21 THE COMMISSIONER: That is 22 interesting. 23 If I can, I will just keep questioning. We are sort of building a model 24 here, a model as you recommended. 25

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1 Let's assume for the moment that 2 the complaints, public complaints against the RCMP are handled by an enhanced CPC, that there is the 3 audit function by CPC dealing with -- you said 4 intrusion on human rights, but that would include 5 other operational issues as well, not ministerial б compliance with Ministerial Directives but there 7 8 would be an audit function in the CPC. 9 MR. BURBIDGE: Right. THE COMMISSIONER: There would be 10 11 the ministerial audit function for compliance with ministerial policy directives. 12 13 Accepting all of that is in place, 14 then one of the concerns that we have heard about repeatedly is well, in this day and age, despite 15 16 what McDonald said, there are going to be integrated activities. The RCMP's national 17 18 security activities will be connected certainly to 19 CSIS and perhaps other agencies. And we will come 20 to in a minute the provincial question. How in the model, as you envision 21 22 it, would the review body that is responsible for 23 the RCMP deal with the integrated activities? 24 The concern -- let me just explain it; I'm sure you are aware of it -- is that when 25

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1 representatives of CSIS and the RCMP as an example 2 work together, if the review bodies didn't have an opportunity of interconnecting and looking at the 3 integrated activities, walls could be built and 4 things will slip between the cracks. 5 How would you propose that the 6 integration be addressed? 7 8 MR. BURBIDGE: I believe somewhere 9 in the further questions document there was a model proposed which I thought speaks to that. 10 11 And I can't remember the question. As I recall it, each review 12 13 agency, SIRC and CPC, would retain their functions, but there would be a kind of --14 15 THE COMMISSIONER: Coordinating 16 committee. 17 MR. BURBIDGE: Coordinating 18 committee headed by the heads of these various 19 authorities. Their responsibility would be to 20 ensure that when there was an investigation arising from the activities of one of these 21 22 integrated units, there was a seamless inquiry that wasn't blocked by a wall somewhere between 23 24 the CPC and SIRC.

If I may borrow the terminology, I

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1 think that was referred to as a horizontal 2 barrier. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. MR. BURBIDGE: And this is very 4 important to me, whether it is barriers between 5 federal agencies or barriers between federal and б provincial agencies. 7 8 THE COMMISSIONER: You were here, 9 I know, when I asked Mr. Borovoy and Mr. Swan about this, but in your experience in dealing with 10 11 these types of bodies, is it realistic to expect that assuming we have the CPC on the one hand and 12 13 SIRC on the other -- let's use them as an example. There has been an integrated 14 investigation; it is an INSET and they have worked 15 16 There is a complaint or it is an audit, together. one or the other; I don't think it matters. But 17 18 clearly the operation was an integrated operation. 19 Is it realistic to expect that the 20 two review bodies then could cooperate to have an 21 integrated review? 22 MR. BURBIDGE: It seems to me that 23 it would be possible, even through a cabinet directive or legislative changes to ensure that 24 25 that in fact happened.

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1 I am not a lawyer, obviously, but 2 I don't know that there is any insurmountable obstacle within the federal sphere to ensuring 3 that kind of linkage occurs so that no one falls 4 between the cracks and no member of that 5 integrated activity escapes scrutiny simply 6 because they happen to be --7 8 THE COMMISSIONER: In the other 9 spot. 10 MR. BURBIDGE: Exactly. 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Let's assume that there is no legal impediment, that one can do 12 it either, as you say, by legislation or cabinet 13 14 directive. I guess then it comes down to a matter of practicality on the ground. 15 16 MR. BURBIDGE: Very much so. THE COMMISSIONER: It sounds to me 17 18 it is certainly easy to say well, you would expect 19 the review agencies to cooperate and everybody is 20 in furtherance of trying to find out what happened and, if there is a problem, to deal with it. 21 22 One of the arguments made against 23 it said you are being naive to think that people in different silos, in different review bodies, 24 aren't going to get their elbows up and that while 25

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1 it sounds good in theory, it wouldn't happen. 2 I am not suggesting that is the 3 case at all. I am just suggesting that there was a touch of that in the earlier submission; that it 4 5 would just not work. Do you have any sort of experience б with that, the need for that? 7 8 MR. BURBIDGE: Not directly with 9 that, but I have lots of experience of the need for that within the police community. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 12 MR. BURBIDGE: One of the 13 recurrent phrases I heard from my police 14 colleagues was let's stop fighting each other and start fighting organized crime, or whatever the 15 16 crime issue was. THE COMMISSIONER: 17 Right. 18 MR. BURBIDGE: So it is not unique 19 to review agencies. There are all sorts of ways 20 of addressing this, perhaps just as there are in the policing area. 21 22 You can have cross appointments. 23 You can have a member of CPC seconded to SIRC to become more familiar with the investigative or the 24 complaints function of SIRC, and vice versa. 25

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1 There are many different mechanisms for overcoming bureaucratic jurisdictional jealousies or 2 3 disputes. THE COMMISSIONER: The secondment 4 issue is an interesting one because they do that 5 at the operational level within the police. 6 7 MR. BURBIDGE: That's right. 8 THE COMMISSIONER: So the point 9 you would make is well, if you can integrate operations, one would hope you could integrate the 10 11 review of those integrated operations. MR. BURBIDGE: Exactly, especially 12 13 if you have the heads of these review agencies already constituting a working group or a standing 14 committee, or whatever, with a mandate to ensure 15 16 that the appropriate kind of cooperation results. THE COMMISSIONER: Would you 17 18 create a committee like that by statute? Would 19 that make a difference in terms of the stature of 20 the committee and how it might function? 21 MR. BURBIDGE: As a non-lawyer, I 22 have a perception that legislation would give it 23 more credibility and authority than otherwise, but it is really for me a matter of political will. 24 25 If the government of the day sees

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1 that the protection of human rights is an 2 important issue and this is a reasonable measure 3 to promote the protection of human rights in relation to federal national security activities, 4 5 this kind of coordinating body would be constituted under some authority or other 6 emanating from the government. 7 8 THE COMMISSIONER: I notice in 9 your written submission that you endorse the idea that there be a national legislative framework for 10 11 integrated policing. I am moving now to the 12 proposal that is in other submissions, as you are 13 aware. 14 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 15 THE COMMISSIONER: The Association of Police Chiefs is one for sure. 16 17 This legislative framework would 18 in part be established in order to address 19 federal-provincial concerns and it would be 20 directed at the operations level. How would you see a national 21 22 framework like that? How would you see it would sort of interact or what effect would it have on 23 the review of the integrated policing activities? 24 And we are talking on a national level. 25

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1 Is that something that you would 2 envision as being part of that national framework? 3 MR. BURBIDGE: Absolutely. There should be a review authority with a mandate that 4 5 covers off all of the members of any new national law enforcement body. 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Say it again. 8 I might have missed it. 9 MR. BURBIDGE: I'm sorry. If we have a new legislative framework for integrated 10 11 policing --12 THE COMMISSIONER: Let me just ask 13 you a couple of questions about how that will work and then we will move on. 14 15 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 16 THE COMMISSIONER: If we had that kind of legislative framework, presumably that 17 would encompass the RCMP, but then police forces 18 19 in the provinces and municipal police forces. 20 MR. BURBIDGE: That's right. THE COMMISSIONER: So it would 21 22 establish the framework for operations, integrated 23 operations. 24 MR. BURBIDGE: Yes. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: It would apply

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1 to more than national security policing; it would 2 apply to organized crime and other policing 3 activities, presumably. 4 MR. BURBIDGE: Exactly. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: To back up to my mandate, we still have, let's assume, the model б you and I have been discussing for the moment, the 7 CPC enhanced with the audit function and so on. 8 9 How would it fit into this national integrated policing framework? 10 11 MR. BURBIDGE: My argument is that 12 either the CPC mandate should be expanded to cover 13 off this new integrated policing framework for 14 national security and organized crime, or there be a new authority created to exercise the audit and 15 complaints function for all members of any new 16 17 integrated authority. 18 THE COMMISSIONER: Would it be 19 practical, do you think, that in a model like 20 that -- and you touched on this earlier -- that the review body for the RCMP, let's assume for the 21 22 moment it is the CPC in your model, that it then 23 had integrated or cooperative review with provincial review bodies when there has been an 24 integrated operation under the framework? 25

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1 Again, what strikes me is that one 2 could say well that sounds like it makes sense. If they are integrated officers from different 3 police forces, then it should be an integrated 4 review. I am going to all this week keep coming 5 back to things that sound like they make sense on 6 paper may be unduly naive or unrealistic. 7 8 So what I am searching for from 9 people like you is -- and I am not suggesting this -- to say whether it is practical or not. 10 11 Are there real problem was something like that? 12 MR. BURBIDGE: It is a very 13 difficult issue and federal-provincial cooperation, whether it is policing or any other 14 part of the administration of justice, is always a 15 challenge. And as you know, there is a whole 16 structure of committees from ministers down to 17 18 policy officers and researchers who work in 19 ongoing fashion on the coordination of federal and provincial efforts. 20 I think it is achievable. I think 21 22 it has to be looked at. I think if you look at 23 other jurisdictions who have the same issues that we have with regard to the fragmentation of 24 information-sharing and the fragmentation of 25

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1 effort, investigative effort and so on, in 2 particularly the U.K. and Australia, they have both identified the need for new structures, new 3 organizational structures in order to ensure that 4 5 these problems are overcome. On the Canadian scene there are a 6 number of examples. 7 8 We have -- this is another area, 9 but it's not totally unrelated. The Wise Persons' Committee on the need for a single securities 10 11 authority for the country. They have some advice 12 on how the legal aspects of that -- in other 13 words, federal legislation with concomitant 14 provincial legislation that would allow this new national authority to take over the functions of 15 all the different provincial and territorial 16 17 authorities. And all of this to be provided with 18 oversight and direction from a federal-provincial 19 committee of ministers with different levels 20 beneath it. That is a Canadian example of what 21 22 could be done. 23 We have other issues in policing because there is the whole issue -- which the CACP 24 is obviously very concerned about -- about the 25

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policing outside their province from where they get their authority and issues of liability, and so forth.

I think it can be done, and has to 4 be done, because I don't see any other way around 5 it. If we are going to give police and law б 7 enforcement agencies greater and greater powers to 8 investigate threats to our country, whether from 9 terrorism or organized crime or whatever, I think we not only have to look at strengthened review to 10 11 ensure the protection of human rights, we also have to look at the guestion of what kind of 12 13 legislative and organizational framework is necessary in order to ensure that police exercise 14 these enhanced powers in a way that is 15 proportionate, effective, and is compliant with 16 17 the law, including the charter, and so forth. While this policy review is 18 19 looking at the question of the review function, 20 public complaints and so forth, the other side of the question is the organization and the 21 22 legislation to facilitate and make possible a 23 truly national approach to these issues. 24 That is basically my position.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: There is an

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attraction to the thought if you are going to have a national -- there is attraction obviously to having integrated policing at a national level, and you if you are going to have a national framework to deal with the operational side, you should include as well in that, address the issue of review because of the concern.

8 You mentioned early on in your 9 remarks, Mr. Burbidge, that you thought there was 10 wisdom to taking an incremental approach, and I 11 think you were speaking generally to the issues in 12 my mandate.

13 Can you expand upon that a little 14 bit?

MR. BURBIDGE: Well, the main 15 16 reason for suggesting an incremental approach is a very straightforward reason. And that is that if 17 18 we look at either the evolution and the history of 19 SIRC or of the CPC, we can see that these agencies 20 have acquired a great deal of expertise and experience over the years in terms of knowing the 21 22 area of activity that is their remit and knowing how to address it and how to address it 23 effectively, and also knowing what needs to be 24 done to make their activity and their mandate more 25

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1 effectively executed.

2 I think the main reason for an 3 incremental approach for me is to ensure that that expertise and that experience is not lost. 4 I guess I was around government 5 long enough to see that exercises in restructuring 6 and reorganization -- and we went through seven or 7 8 eight of them between 1987 and 1993, not all of 9 equal scope. But every time there was a restructuring there was some loss of corporate 10 11 memory, there was some loss of capacity, while at 12 the same time the responsibilities of the minister 13 didn't change and the need to support the minister and the deputy minister and their carrying out of 14 their responsibilities did not diminish. 15 So I think there is a real risk in 16 17 creating new structures. There is always a risk. 18 Personally I don't think the case 19 has been made that a super agency, as it has been 20 articulated in the various proposals, could work because it would be so pervasive, it would have to 21 22 deal with so many existing accountability and 23 review and complaint authorities, as I said, the mandates and activities of the different 24 25 departments involved are so very diverse and

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1 disparate that I just don't see how it could work. 2 Very simply, it is the old saying: If it is working, don't fix it. Let's build on 3 what is working. 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: The argument for those that propose the super agency -- and I б think as I read the submissions, it is somewhat 7 8 different as envisioned by different people, but 9 to just sort of include it as a concept. What drives the need for a super agency, as I read the 10 11 submissions -- I will hear from them -- is the need to address the integration of operations 12 13 problem: the don't let something fall between the cracks; that there should be one body that has 14 sort of a comprehensive view of everything we do 15 16 in security intelligence, and so on. 17 Obviously it is important not to 18 let anything fall between the cracks when it comes 19 to review; to have somebody easily be able to 20 side-step it. And this brings us back to the earlier point we discussed. 21 22 The question is: Are there other 23 solutions to the "integration problem" that can adequately address it? 24 We have talked about the 25

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1 possibility of the coordinating agency of the 2 chairs. We talked about that. 3 Are there any other techniques -you talked about the possibility of secondments 4 between review agencies. Are there any other 5 techniques or means that you could suggest that 6 could be implemented to address the integration 7 8 problem? 9 MR. BURBIDGE: There are all kinds of examples in policing of collaborative efforts 10 11 that have worked extremely well, where police from the RCMP, provincial and municipal police forces 12 13 have worked together very effectively to achieve whatever the goals have been, whether it is a G8 14 summit or dealing with a motorcycle gang problem. 15 On the other hand, there are so 16 many diversions, cultural differences, 17 18 organizational tensions, jurisdictional 19 differences within the police community, that I 20 frankly don't think there is any solution to the issue that the CACP has raised, other than a new 21 22 legislative framework which would include the creation of a new national law enforcement 23 authority with responsibility for all national 24 25 security enforcement and anti terrorism and anti

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1 organized crime activities. 2 These problems have been with us 3 for so long. For example, the Auditor General in the March 2004 report documented extensively 4 the problems of information sharing and 5 coordination of effort in the fight against б terrorism since September 11th. 7 8 Many of these problems have 9 existed and have been documented by the Auditor General, or at least have been recognized within 10 11 the police community, for the past two decades. 12 The problems are no different in 13 nature than what other jurisdictions have lived 14 through, the British and the Australian. They have both decided to create new structures. 15 And 16 it is not over yet. 17 In Britain they have 43 police 18 forces in England and Northern Ireland. I think 19 very recently, I think it was the Secretary of 20 State for Home Affairs said we can no longer tolerate a situation where there are 43 different 21 22 ways that policing is done in this country. And 23 the U.K. is a unified state with only 43 police 24 agencies. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: Right.

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1 MR. BURBIDGE: It is a very, very 2 difficult issue. And I think we should at least 3 be looking very closely at the reasons why these other jurisdictions have done what they have done, 4 and also of course whether the new structures have 5 resolved the issues that led to their creation. б THE COMMISSIONER: 7 That is very 8 qood. Is there anything else you would like to 9 say or anything in closing? MR. BURBIDGE: No, but I do again 10 11 want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my views with you. 12 13 THE COMMISSIONER: I am very appreciative. I felt that was very useful to me, 14 good exchanges, and I appreciate again your 15 16 participation in the inquiry. 17 Thank you very much. 18 MR. BURBIDGE: Thank you, 19 Commissioner. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: We will take a 10-minute break before the next presentation. 21 22 --- Upon recessing at 2:47 p.m. / 23 Suspension à 14 h 47 --- Upon resuming at 3:00 p.m. / 24

25 Reprise à 15 h 00

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: Next is the 2 REDRESS Trust, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, and the World Organization Against 3 4 Torture, represented by Ms Carla Ferstman. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Ms Ferstman, welcome. I understand you came all the way from 6 7 England. 8 MS FERSTMAN: I did. Thank you. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: By way of background, I am told you formerly practised 10 11 criminal law in Vancouver and you are now associated with REDRESS Trust in London. 12 13 Is that right? 14 MS FERSTMAN: That is correct, 15 yes. 16 THE COMMISSIONER: How long have you been in England? 17 18 MS FERSTMAN: About five years. 19 THE COMMISSIONER: Good. Thank 20 you. 21 I have received your written 22 submission and I appreciate very much the effort 23 and thought. I think it is particularly noteworthy that your organizations have taken an 24 interest in the inquiry. I appreciate that 25

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1 interest and the help you have given. 2 So thank you for coming today. Ιf 3 you would like to begin with a presentation, that would be fine. 4 SUBMISSIONS 5 MS FERSTMAN: Thank you very much. 6 It is definitely a pleasure and an 7 8 honour to be here. Of course aside from the 9 lovely weather that you are having, everything else about being here is just wonderful. 10 11 Just perhaps to give a bit of 12 background and to remind the Commission that I am 13 here not only on behalf of the REDRESS Trust, but also on behalf of the Association for the 14 Prevention of Torture as well as the World 15 16 Organization Against Torture. The three 17 organizations, as you know, are focused 18 specifically on issues relating to torture, mainly 19 prevention, prohibition and reparation for victims 20 of torture. So the reason why we are so 21 22 interested in this inquiry is for quite obvious 23 reasons relating to the subject matter, but we do 24 feel that it is an excellent and important 25 opportunity that the inquiry presents to get

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1 matters straight with respect to some of the 2 factual issues as well as their implications for 3 policy. THE COMMISSIONER: 4 Yes. 5 MS FERSTMAN: What I would propose to do is to set out some very general б issues or views that we have with respect to the 7 process and to follow this by some more specific 8 9 issues relating to the questions posed in this policy review. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. Okay.

12 MS FERSTMAN: In this respect, I 13 think it is important for me to provide a few 14 caveats. As we are a human rights organization, while we deal very often, all of our 15 organizations, with issues involved in policing, 16 17 we are not experts in the intricacies of police 18 systems and, as a result of that, some of the 19 comments will unfortunately have to be a little 20 more general than we would otherwise like, and perhaps a little bit more general than perhaps 21 22 would be useful for the Commission. But I hope nonetheless that our comments will be of use to 23 24 the Commission.

THE COMMISSIONER: No. I

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1 understand that point. Thank you. 2 MS FERSTMAN: With respect to the 3 Arar case, I think it is important to note by way of background that this case is not unique. Not 4 5 only are there other examples of this situation with respect to other Canadian nationals, but this 6 is part of a practice which goes far beyond the 7 8 situation in Canada. There have been many, many 9 cases documented over the past years in the current "War Against Terrorism". 10 11 But the most offensive aspects of the practice which has become known as 12 extraordinary rendition is the fact that there is 13 14 absolutely no legal process associated with the rendition. As we know, in any case in a regular 15 16 context, a deportation or an extradition process there is always all sorts of guarantees to ensure 17 18 proper process, but with this system of 19 extraordinary rendition those guarantees fully 20 absent. The second is that with respect to 21 22 the facts and the situation, these persons are not 23 only being sent to places where they may be at risk to torture, but there is increasing evidence 24

25 that these people are being sent to places for the

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specific reason that they will actually undergo
 interrogation techniques which would otherwise not
 be possible in home countries. So this we find of
 particular concern.

5 The third issue is that of course 6 the practice of extraordinary rendition is a 7 practice which cannot take place without the 8 acquiescence, collaboration or assistance of third 9 countries. In this respect, the role of the 10 Commission in looking at this aspect is 11 particularly welcome.

So while the facts of the Arar 12 13 case are not unique, I think it is important to 14 underscore that the inquiry is very much, very, very unique. This is the first earnest case that 15 we know of where there is an investigation into 16 the alleged actions of a State as well as its 17 18 officials in facilitating, contributing and 19 supporting the practise of extraordinary 20 rendition.

21 So it is therefore of vital 22 importance, given Canada's recognition as one of 23 the leaders in international justice in a variety 24 of different contexts, this Commission is 25 extremely relevant in that to further the

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important role that Canada has to play in this
 field.

In this respect I think it is also very important to consider that it is not only the three organizations internationally that are interested in what happens here at this Commission. There is quite, quite wide interest in what is happening here. I think that is really important to bear in mind.

10 If we consider that the United 11 Nations, in its most recent report of the Human 12 Rights Committee analysing Canada's compliance 13 with the international covenant on civil and political rights, made a specific reference to the 14 inquiry and the inquiry process, as well as the 15 need for broader level inquiry into other cases in 16 Canada. But, as well, the Committee Against 17 18 Torture looking into Canada's obligations under 19 the UN Convention Against Torture made similar 20 reference to the inquiry during that process. 21 So I just do think it is quite 22 important to underscore that the Commission is of

23 international importance.

Also, taking this in mind, and given what has come out of the factual inquiry at

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1 this point, it would seem that the inquiry presents a very important moment, an opportunity 2 3 to take a firm stance against torture and to affirm positively, not only for Canadians but 4 5 internationally, that what Canada stands for is acceptance of the prohibition against torture, 6 which is absolute. That should go without saying. 7 8 But also, in terms of prevention 9 of reoccurrence, to put in place the appropriate checks and balances to ensure that what happened 10 in this case doesn't happen and cannot reoccur. 11 So turning to the mandate of the 12 policy review, certainly it is the Commissioner's 13 mandate -- your mandate with respect to the policy 14 review is to make recommendations for an 15 16 arm's-length review with respect to the activities of the RCMP, but having regard to the specific 17 18 words of that mandate. I would submit that it is 19 quite important to look at that mandate in light 20 of what has come out of the factual inquiry, and that goes with respect to making recommendations 21 22 regarding arm's-length review beyond the RCMP, if 23 that is seen as the most appropriate place to go. 24 With respect to the review body, as I said at the beginning, our comments can only 25

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1 be mere comments, but in this respect it is 2 important to underscore that the principal basis of a review body in undertaking the appropriate 3 review that Canada must be seen to be implementing 4 and meeting fully its international obligations. 5 This would include both the right of individuals б to have their allegations considered promptly, 7 8 effectively and impartially, on the one hand, but 9 also the independent duty of States, of Canada, to take proper cognizance of events that come to its 10 11 attention. So this would be both a 12 13 complaint-driven process as well as an audit function, and we do see that the two fall 14 hand-in-hand. One without the other would not 15 16 seem to be adequate in the circumstances. 17 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you think 18 those should be in the same body? It should be 19 the same body that does the complaints and the 20 audit? Ideally I would 21 MS FERSTMAN: 22 submit that yes, that would be the best model to take forward. Part of the reason for that is that 23 the complaints will, or should to a certain 24 extent, drive the audit process and vice versa. 25

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. 2 MS FERSTMAN: It will sometimes be 3 the case that in resolving or investigating a particular complaint the body undertaking the 4 5 investigation will find systemic problems, or they will consider that there seems to be systemic 6 problems which require further analysis. 7 So it 8 would seem that having a very, very close 9 connection with the complaint process is necessary for the audit and vice versa. We would think that 10 11 would be quite important. 12 Also, with respect to that I think 13 it is important to just underscore that the 14 complaints process and the audit process serve separate, different purposes, though interrelated. 15 16 On the one side the complaints process will mainly serve a post facto function of remedying 17 18 individual situations and also serve a certain 19 aspect of deterrence, but looking at the audit 20 function it would go much, much further to issues of prevention as well as to potentially to look at 21 22 broader recommendations for institutional reform. 23 THE COMMISSIONER: What standards do you think a complaint function and an audit 24 25 function -- should they be the same standards of

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1 which they examine conduct against for a 2 complaints and audit function? What standards 3 would you suggest? There is obviously law. There is articulated policy. There are questions about 4 international law, obligations under treaties, 5 tests of reasonableness, proportionality. б MS FERSTMAN: I would say at the 7 8 outset with respect to the mention of 9 international law that it is the position of our organizations that internal law must be 10 11 interpreted with a view to international 12 obligations. So they are part and parcel of the 13 same thing. To further a little bit on that 14 15 point, that one must interpret the internal national law obligations with a view to what is 16 the requirement under international law. So there 17 18 I would say that there shouldn't be a distinction 19 of sorts. 20 With respect to what I would say is the jurisdiction or the framework with which 21 22 these bodies should go, it is to ensure -- I think 23 it would be quite similar to what a complaints body or an audit function would do in a normal 24 circumstance. It wouldn't seem to me to be 25

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1 something which would be necessarily different, 2 with the added caveats that of course when we are talking about national security considerations 3 there are special legal provisions which apply and 4 5 certain investigative practices which may be condoned in those practices in accordance with б domestic law. Obviously that would need to be 7 8 taken into account. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Okay. 10 MS FERSTMAN: As I mentioned, our 11 view is that ideally it would be the same body to 12 undertake the audits as well as the complaints 13 process given that you would need to create the 14 best opportunity for synergy between these functions. 15 With respect to complaints in 16 17 particular, from the perspective of the victim of 18 this type of a situation, it is -- from our view, 19 one of the typical problems is that the victim 20 will not necessarily know where to go to file a complaint, and they will not necessarily know or 21 22 need to know the intricacies of the different 23 organs or bodies that deal with the various

So, in our view, we have been

functions with policing.

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quite supportive in general terms of the recommendations made by other for an integrated approach to both complaints and audits, because we feel it shouldn't be for the complainant to divine somehow which body may or may not be responsible for that.

7 If you had an integrated approach, 8 then obviously one would be able to avoid that 9 problem. Given the secrecy in which security 10 investigations take place, it would seem that that 11 would be a particularly relevant consideration.

12 Another issue with respect to 13 complaints and the need for what we would see as a 14 need for an integrated approach is that if you have so many bodies involved in national security 15 investigations it would seem rather easy for 16 17 complaints to fall between the cracks. This is 18 something that has been referred to in many of the other submissions. 19

From our perspective, we would see this as particularly relevant, not only because factually certain things would fall outside of individual mandates, but also because it would be rather easy, in an environment when there is, perhaps it can be said, not necessarily that much

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1 will on behalf of certain bodies to have 2 complaints fully aired, that it would seem in 3 those circumstances that there would be a tendency or a risk of a tendency for certain agencies to 4 pass the buck, one to the other. We were 5 responsible for this, but we were not responsible б for your problem, hence it is over there. 7 8 So you might have a risk of a 9 victim not forum shopping, but actually being forced to go from agency to agency to agency to 10 11 get the situation resolved. From the perspective of the victim, that would seem to be not only 12 13 inefficient but unfair. It is not their fault that matters are diffuse, that has to be something 14 which should be dealt with by the bodies 15 16 themselves. 17 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly one 18 of the issues for anybody that reads the 19 submissions that we have received is a concern to 20 deal with when there is more than one agency involved in an investigation in a complaint or an 21 22 audit, that somehow there has to be some 23 coordination or integration of the review. As you 24 point out, many suggest, or some suggest at least, there be one "super agency", others suggest that 25

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there are ways of dealing with it that aren't as dramatic, if I can put it that way, as going to a super agency.

MS FERSTMAN: With respect to the complaints process itself, another point to take into consideration -- it has been raised both in the background paper I believe, as well as in some of the submissions -- is the necessity for the complaints process not to be idle.

What I mean by that is that it 10 11 would be appropriate for the complaints process to actively go into the community to explain its role 12 13 and its mandate and to dispel certain reluctance within different communities which may not feel 14 that they want to come forward for a variety of 15 16 different reasons. That in another contexts that we have worked in is particularly important to 17 18 encourage complaints.

The second part of that is that obviously you will not ever get the number of complaints to adequately reflect the nature of all problems. In that respect, that goes to the reason why an audit is so necessary. But also with respect to the complaints process it would seem that it would be quite appropriate to have

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1 other methods, other than victim-generated, for 2 complaints to come before a review body. There could be an ex officio power of the review body to 3 look at complaints, but also in some jurisdictions 4 5 it is possible for there to be complaints that are brought to the review body by interested civil б society groups, for instance a human rights or 7 8 public interest-type complaints process 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. MS FERSTMAN: Or by other 10 11 processes such as referral by governmental 12 agencies. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: Or 14 self-initiated by the complaints body itself. MS FERSTMAN: Yes, exactly. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: Just on your 17 point about being out to the community and sort of 18 informing the community about the accessibility of 19 the complaints process, I recall we had a couple 20 of roundtables and there was a discussion at one roundtable where the chair of one complaints body 21 22 described how he had done this, and it was 23 important, he thought, to go out and to make sure the people were aware of it, so it promoted 24 25 accessibility.

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1 The contrary point that was 2 suggested at the time, though, is that one has to be careful that you don't go out drumming up 3 business which lead to frivolous complaints. 4 I am just wondering if you have had any experience 5 when that has happened as to whether or not there 6 is a concern about that. 7 8 MS FERSTMAN: Certainly the way in 9 which we have been involved in that is working with the need to have information about general 10 11 complaints about torture available to detainees in 12 prison contexts. 13 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 14 MS FERSTMAN: What we have encouraged in those contexts is for the basic 15 information to be made available about who to 16 17 complain to, what the nature of the complaint is, 18 and what can be expected from the complaints 19 process. That is information which may be on a 20 website for instance, but website information is not necessarily accessible to the groups who would 21 22 need to know the information. 23 So having that basic information as well as some place where they could go to get 24 further information, for instance if there was a 25

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1 body which dealt with the public side of that, so 2 that could be referred to as the place where 3 persons would go to get more information about this, then that would not necessarily be seen to 4 5 be drumming up business, it is more simply about raising awareness about a part of the process б which may well be new and would require some 7 8 outreach. 9 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. I will turn, if I 10 MS FERSTMAN: 11 may, to the issue about powers, the powers of review bodies. 12 13 In this respect I would suggest 14 that there are two aspects of that. 15 First, with respect to power 16 issue, it is really the power to get the 17 information that seems to us to be quite a central 18 issue with respect to the effectiveness of any 19 review body. 20 So in looking at what would be appropriate in the context of a review mechanism 21 22 looking into national security matters, it would 23 seem that it would be appropriate to consider how best to ensure that that body gets the 24 information. There may be a variety of different 25

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ways in which this can be effectuated, but 1 2 certainly the power to subpoena documents as well as persons for giving of evidence may seem to be 3 an appropriate way in which to do that, together 4 with access to a judicial remedy for failure for 5 that system to work effectively. 6 But also it would seem that some 7 8 of the concerns that have been raised with respect 9 to access to information, that perhaps the review body should not necessarily have access to certain 10 11 information because of various confidentialities which may apply, it would seem that those types of 12 issues could be regulated in another way through 13 security clearances of the highest nature or of 14 the requisite nature. That would be a better 15 16 approach. In looking at the question of 17 18 release of information to the public, that is 19 where perhaps there is more need to look at what 20 information should be released, what information should be kept from the public and why. 21 22 But with respect to the review 23 process itself, it would seem that would be a place where the entire effectiveness of the body 24 would be in jeopardy if it didn't have access to 25

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1 the information on which to base the complaints. 2 THE COMMISSIONER: What about the 3 question of privilege, the three that have been discussed, solicitor-client, informer privilege 4 and Cabinet privilege? 5 MS FERSTMAN: Certainly I would 6 suggest that it would be for the review body to 7 make the case that the evidence that it is seeking 8 9 is of such relevance and probity to the determination of the claim that it would override, 10 11 in those circumstances those privileges. 12 Certainly a formulation which could take into 13 account legal formulation to that effect could be 14 developed to ensure that the relevant balancing is 15 there. 16 But I would suggest that if the 17 information is highly relevant to the 18 determination of the claim, that should be of 19 overriding importance. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. 21 --- Pause 22 MS FERSTMAN: One of the arguments 23 that we have put forward in our written submissions -- and I believe this was referred to 24 in the previous oral submissions -- is that 25

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1 regardless of the type of review that is 2 ultimately determined, be that a functional review or an agency-based review, that if it is an agency 3 review that the agency should have access to 4 information that goes outside of that agency. 5 In considering how that would 6 actually work, I would suggest that actually makes 7 8 a further argument for why an agency approach is 9 not necessarily the best solution, because certainly one could see that if you had an agency 10 11 approach then one agency would need to take a lead with respect to a particular complaint. 12 13 Because, as I said, you wouldn't want the victim to have to go to five places to 14 get five components of the complaints answered 15 separately and for them to divine the solution. 16 One agency would need to take the lead with 17 18 respect to a complaint and there would need to be 19 a process whereby that would be determined. 20 It would seem that at the practical level, it would be very difficult for 21 22 one agency to successfully obtain information from 23 another agency if they are on an equal footing. This is one of the reasons why, in our view, it 24 would be appropriate for there to be a functional 25

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1 review on the basis of national security 2 complaints. With respect to the nature of the 3 review bodies and whether or not the conclusion 4 should be mere recommendations or binding 5 conclusions, we have also indicated in our written б submissions that the ability to make binding 7 8 orders is quite important to the effectiveness of 9 a review body. This would seem to differ quite significantly from the current powers of the CPC. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: And from 12 Mr. Borovoy's submission. 13 --- Laughter / Rires 14 MS FERSTMAN: It is suggested that there are a number of areas where stronger powers 15 would be needed, and this would include binding 16 17 nature. 18 The first is with respect to 19 subpoena power and information, or evidence 20 considerations which I have touched on already. But the second, with respect to 21 22 binding conclusions, it is not that the review 23 body becomes its own investigative arm and its own police force and its own judiciary, it is more 24 that the conclusions of the review body about the 25

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1 impropriety of certain conduct should be binding 2 and the recommendations with respect to the 3 outcomes of that impropriety should be binding. In other words, that the review --4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: A discipline body in terms of complaints of misconduct? б The review body may, 7 MS FERSTMAN: 8 for example, say certain disciplinary action must 9 follow or a criminal complaint should follow. So what we mean by binding in this sense is that 10 11 there would be an obligation on the body concerned, if it is the RCMP or some other body, 12 13 to actually conduct that disciplinary process but 14 not necessarily to impose a disciplinary process. THE COMMISSIONER: Not define 15 misconduct, just implement the process itself. 16 17 MS FERSTMAN: Exactly. And 18 similarly with a criminal investigation, there 19 would be an obligation for an investigation to be 20 launched, but the review body would not necessarily -- and it wouldn't seem to be 21 22 appropriate for the review body to come to a 23 conclusion that person X is guilty of crime Y. 24 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 25 MS FERSTMAN: That would seem to

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overstep the functions. It is more a process
 which is binding upon the body. So I just wanted
 to make that point.

THE COMMISSIONER: What about 4 5 conclusions with respect to implementing new policies? Some would say it should just make б recommendations if it perceived there was a 7 8 systemic policy, there was lack of training, let's 9 say, of a particular group of officers; that they could recommend that there be a new training 10 11 program. The argument being that if they were actually to have binding authority, it would begin 12 13 to intrude on the perception of independence. It 14 would almost make them part of the organization they were reviewing. 15

16 MS FERSTMAN: Certainly that 17 argument has some merit. How we would see the 18 binding nature on the audit side is that there is 19 an obligation on the body concerned to 20 appropriately consider, in a very serious way, with processes and they could be seen potentially 21 22 to have fettered or abused that consideration. THE COMMISSIONER: But ultimately 23 it would be for the body, in this case the RCMP, 24 to decide whether or not it needed a new training 25

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1 program?

2 I would suggest that MS FERSTMAN: it is -- I don't know if in respect of training it 3 would necessarily be for the RCMP or some other 4 body to decide that. It is more for the review 5 body. If the review body makes a recommendation, б then there would be an obligation to follow up on 7 8 that recommendation. 9 In some cases it may be law reform that is needed or institutional reform that may 10 11 have an implication on other parts of government beyond just the RCMP, even if it relates to RCMP, 12 13 I would suggest. Another issue which has been 14 15 raised in the further questions document relates 16 to the question of special advocates to represent victims' interests. 17 18 In this respect we found this 19 issue rather important. It is difficult for us to 20 give a positive recommendation in this respect, given that we are quite far from knowing the 21 22 intricacies of how the system works. It would seem that it would be 23 appropriate to consider whether there is a need 24 for special advocates in light of the availability 25

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1 or not of Legal Aid in appropriate cases and to 2 consider whether the victims can be adequately represented by counsel in certain cases. 3 That should be part of the 4 5 decision-making process about whether or not a special advocate would be needed. б THE COMMISSIONER: I think the 7 8 thought here is, the issue that is raised is are 9 there cases because the complainant, the person affected, won't be able to participate in all or 10 11 part of the hearing because of the security 12 confidentiality concerns, therefore will be 13 unrepresented? 14 It is not so much would they have a Legal Aid lawyer, but could they have somebody 15 16 who has the appropriate security clearance who 17 could attend at the in camera hearing to represent 18 the interests of that person. 19 So the question arises should that 20 happen, in what types of cases and all the different sort of rules that would surround such 21 22 an arrangement. I think that is the issue that 23 the question was directed at. 24 Thank you for that MS FERSTMAN:

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clarification, which is guite helpful.

25

1 I think in that context I would 2 agree that there would be a need for special advocates in certain cases. I believe that in 3 some cases in the United Kingdom they have used 4 that type of approach where the evidence that has 5 been considered has not been able to be made б public to the complainant. And whilst there are 7 8 issues with respect to whether or not the evidence 9 should have been made public to the complainants, the role of the special advocates was quite 10 11 important in helping to allay some of 12 those concerns. 13 So that, I would suggest, is quite 14 important. 15 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly it is 16 an issue that comes up. I noticed in one of the submissions -- I can't remember which one it 17 18 was -- that somebody said yes, they thought that 19 in principle it was a good idea but one would want 20 to use it with a certain amount of discretion; that you wouldn't use it in sort of a rude conduct 21 22 case, or something of that sort, was the example 23 they gave. 24 It raises from a professional standpoint, as well, some issues because you then 25

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have a counsel appearing and unable to report to his or her client the information or what may have occurred at the hearing where they were representing the client.

5 So it does raise some interesting
6 professional issues. Go ahead.

MS FERSTMAN: With respect to the
issue of jurisdiction, I would perhaps make a few
points in that respect.

As I already mentioned, we would 10 11 submit that for a variety of reasons it would be better to have a functional type agency to deal 12 13 with national security issues. But I do think that some of the concerns that were raised in a 14 number of the papers, including I think it was 15 Shirley Heafey's paper, are serious concerns that 16 17 need to be looked at and have not necessarily been 18 resolved.

So one would need take thoseconcerns into account.

It would seem that one of the main considerations or the main issues with respect to those concerns relates to the problem of defining national security interests. That would seem to be one of the biggest areas.

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1 If we turn that around, it would 2 seem the very fact that you have a difficulty to define national security interests, and to a 3 certain extent the overly broad definition of 4 terrorist offences, which, combined, leads to this 5 problem, that very fact means that you have so б many different types of agencies looking into so 7 8 many different types of things, in a way it leads 9 to the conclusion that you need a special body to look into that to ensure that mandates are not 10 11 overstepped. 12 So whilst the concerns about 13 jurisdiction and who will be doing what are certainly valid, there must be ways in which to 14 deal with those concerns. 15 16 If you don't have an overarching 17 body to deal with national security interests, you 18 really risk not looking into the problem with the 19 degree of oversight and overview that is required 20 to deal effectively with the problem. That would be our primary 21 22 submission in that respect. 23 It would seem that a degree of overlap is obviously going to occur if you have an 24 overarching body, but you retain the review 25

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1 mechanisms of the individual bodies, which you
2 must.

But there would seem to be a 3 number of different ways in which to deal with 4 5 these issues, none of which are sufficient, of course. Perhaps as a general starting point, if б one develops clear guidelines about the transfer 7 8 of cases between agency reviews and the 9 overarching functional review that require transfer in certain cases, then you might be able 10 11 to avoid the situation of forum shopping. You might also be able to avoid the problem which will 12 13 also probably occur of victims lodging complaints in both places and having two parallel complaints 14 going on at the same time. So it would seem that 15 16 if there was some obligation to transfer the case and finding the appropriate criteria for that, 17 18 that might assist with respect to those 19 considerations.

THE COMMISSIONER: You mentioned Ms Heafey's submission, and she makes the point very strongly, in fact I guess the CPC Commission, about the special nature of reviewing law enforcement activities and makes the point that really reviewing, even in the national security

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investigation, it is basically reviewing the use
 of law enforcement powers, typical policing
 powers.

We have reviewed some of the CPC 4 files and there is some merit to the point she 5 makes. She also goes on to say that there is a б huge amount of expertise, specialized expertise 7 8 that has been developed and that law enforcement 9 is very different from security intelligence collection, which CSIS does, and that the people 10 11 at CPC over the years have developed this 12 expertise, body of knowledge.

13 One of the concerns I have heard 14 is that is great, we have that and why don't we build upon that? And if we create a new agency we 15 16 are going to have to -- it could be a new agency, 17 somebody said, of generalists. That immediately 18 would concern me because I'm not sure that we want 19 a new agency of generalists that aren't going to 20 be able to really do their job.

21 If the CPC are the experts, there 22 is some merit to using existing institutions and 23 expertise.

24 MS FERSTMAN: I would agree with 25 that point. I would think the way in which that

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1 could be addressed, while still having the 2 overarching review, is to look at the possibility 3 of having complaints that the overarching review is dealing with, seconding a member of -- let's 4 say it is a complaint that relates to the RCMP. 5 Having a member of the CPC attached to the б complaints that the overarching body for the 7 8 aspect that relates to RCMP. 9 So I would see the secondments going upwards in that respect as opposed to down 10 11 or sideways agency to agency. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: You can see the 13 existing review body staying in place so we may 14 take advantage of the existing review body, their expertise and so on, but somehow a coordination of 15 16 the use of their talents going up through an overarching body. 17 18 MS FERSTMAN: Certainly. But 19 having the overarching body would seem to be 20 central to getting that overall picture whilst using the expertise from the relevant agencies. 21 22 THE COMMISSIONER: Right. 23 MS FERSTMAN: There has been quite a lot of mention about integrated policing. 24 If, as was mentioned, one goes down the road looking 25

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1 at having an integrated approach, that would fit 2 seamlessly with an overarching review body, and it would seem to match with the trends of policing in 3 practise, even if some of the relations are 4 5 currently informal. I think I will stop there. б Thank 7 you. 8 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very 9 That was most helpful and I appreciate the much. time that you and your three organizations have 10 11 taken to participate in the inquiry. 12 Thank you very much, Ms Ferstman. 13 We are going to rise now and we 14 are resuming tomorrow at 3 o'clock, the late start because of my schedule. We have three 15 presentations tomorrow afternoon. So it will from 16 3:00 until about 6:30. 17 18 So until 3 o'clock tomorrow. 19 --- Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 3:45 p.m., 20 to resume on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 21 3:00 p.m. / L'audience est ajournée à 15 h 45 22 pour reprendre le mercredi 16 novembre 2005 à 15 h 00 23 24 25

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Linda Johanson

Lynda Johansson,

C.S.R., R.P.R.

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