



Press release

For immediate Release

The Arar Commission releases a new version of the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC) report on the Arar case

Ottawa, September 13, 2004 --- The Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar tabled today, as an exhibit on the first day of its *in camera* hearings, a new government “redacted” version of a confidential SIRC report on the Arar case.

At the public hearing held in Ottawa on June 23, 2004, Lead Commission Counsel Paul Cavalluzzo showed the report which had all 89 pages “redacted” or blacked-out by the government. The version released today, on which the government claims partial National Security Confidentiality (NSC), is substantially “redacted”. Up to 70% of the document and its appendices are still covered by government claimed NSC.

It is important to note however that Commissioner Dennis O'Connor has access to the “unredacted” or unexpurgated version of the SIRC document. After the completion of the *in camera* hearings, the Commissioner will rule on the government NSC claims, and at that time he will decide what, if any, of the redacted sections of the SIRC report may be made public.

This week and next, the Commission of Inquiry is holding *in camera* hearings to receive evidence on which the government claims National Security Confidentiality (NSC), on the role of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) in connection with the case of Mr. Arar.

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

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