



Press Release

For immediate release

Commission of Inquiry releases wide-ranging Consultation Paper

Ottawa, 5 October 2004 – Mr. Justice Dennis O'Connor released today a Consultation Paper relating to the Policy Review portion of his mandate. The Paper invites individuals, groups and organizations, including government institutions, to provide their views on whether a new review mechanism is required for the RCMP's national security activities and, if so, what it should look like. Justice O'Connor states that the Paper has two purposes: "The first is to provide background information to foster discussion of questions raised by the Policy Review. The second is to identify specific issues which at this point seem to me to be at the heart of this part of my mandate."

The Consultation Paper, together with eight background papers, sets out the research carried out by the Commission to date, including such important topics as the role of the RCMP in national security activities in the post-9/11 world; intelligence-led policing; accountability; police independence; and the rights and freedoms potentially affected by national security activities. The papers also discuss existing review models in a wide range of agencies involved in policing and/or security intelligence agencies in Canada and internationally.

The Consultation Paper sets out a number of options for possible review models. Justice O'Connor states: "I am of the view that I should explore the full range of possibilities for a review mechanism of the RCMP in its national security activities. I intend the Consultation Paper to generate discussion of the most appropriate models, and I invite public commentary on all of the matters relevant to my mandate."

The Commissioner will shortly call for formal submissions on the Consultation Paper, including the questions of whether there is a need for and the structure of any new review model. Justice O'Connor will also hold consultation sessions on the Policy Review. More details can be found on the Commission's web site: www.ararcommission.ca.

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

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