

SECRET

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
RCMP SECURITY SERVICE

ORGANIZATION

The RCMP Security Service is an organizational creation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP Act specifies that it is the duty of members of the Force "to perform such other duties and functions as are prescribed by the Governor-in-Council or the Commissioner". Regulations made pursuant to the RCMP Act, further require the Force "to maintain and operate such security and intelligence services as may be required by the Minister".

The unique requirements of security and intelligence work have historically resulted in a degree of operational and structural separation between the RCMP Security Service (and its organizational predecessors known as the Directorate of Security and Intelligence and the RCMP Special Branch) and other components of the Force. As of July 1976, the general administrative structures and authorities of the RCMP Security Service have been patterned along those of a Division of the Force with the necessary adjustment to take into account the special needs and national character of the Service.

As a "National Division", RCMP Security Service field personnel in Area Commands (roughly corresponding to Division and Provincial boundaries) are subject to centralized control and direction from RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa. Operating under the general direction of the Commissioner, RCMP Security Service activities are directed by a civilian Director General assisted by three Deputy Directors General responsible respectively for Operations, Operations Services and Administration and Personnel functions.

Operating and other expenses are secured through the normal budgetary process but are "hidden" within Force-wide allocation categories. The RCMP Security Service currently has a 1979/80 operating budget of \$57 million and an approved establishment of 1993 person-years.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The RCMP Security Service is the primary federal operational and investigative body concerned with internal security. As a part of the government interdepartmental efforts to protect "national security", internal security operations and investigations have traditionally been directed toward preventing or countering "espionage", "subversion", "terrorism" and other activities deemed prejudicial to national or internal security. The prevention of such activities ideally involves the anticipatory collection and analysis of information and its dissemination as intelligence to appropriate Federal decision-makers, local law enforcement officers or, on occasion, to foreign security/intelligence agencies.

Specific RCMP Security Service responsibilities have evolved through a combination of administrative, Ministerial and Cabinet direction.

Correspondence dated May 1970 from Prime Minister Trudeau to Solicitor General George McIlraith specified that the Director General of the RCMP Security Service be responsible for the following tasks:

- to collect, collate and evaluate information or intelligence concerning espionage and subversion, and to communicate such information in such a manner and to such Ministers and officials as the Solicitor General considers to be in the public interest, and as would be consistent with basic security policy;
- to be responsible for the direction, co-ordination and implementation of counter-espionage and counter-subversion investigations and operations in Canada;
- to undertake, at the request of departments and agencies of government and the Public Service Commission, security investigations concerning civilian personnel employed, or being considered for employment, by the Government of Canada in positions which require access to classified information; and
- to co-operate and conduct liaison as necessary with domestic and foreign police and security services.

Further operational guidelines were provided by Cabinet in March 1975. These guidelines authorized and directed the RCMP Security Service

to maintain internal security by discerning, monitoring, investigating, deterring, preventing and countering individuals and groups in Canada where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that they may be engaged in or may be planning to engage in:

- (a) espionage or sabotage;
- (b) foreign intelligence activities directed toward gathering intelligence information relating to Canada;
- (c) activities directed toward accomplishing governmental change within Canada or elsewhere by force or violence or any criminal means;
- (d) activities by a foreign power directed toward actual or potential attack or other hostile acts against Canada;
- (e) activities of a foreign or domestic group directed toward the commission of terrorist acts in or against Canada; or
- (f) the use or the encouragement of the use of force, violence or any criminal means, or the creation or exploitation of civil disorder, for the purpose of accomplishing any of the activities referred to above.

The guidelines also directed the Service to report annually on its activities to the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence.

RCMP Security Service operational concerns and priorities, within these broad guidelines, reflect the Service's best assessment of the nature and locus of internal security "threats" at any point in time. Changes in the domestic and international environments as well as alterations in government policy have an impact on the nature of security problems and security concerns.

The threat from Soviet-inspired espionage and subversion, as originally demonstrated by the Gozenko revelations, has remained a priority for more than thirty years.

Other major internal security problems such as domestic and international terrorism have also emerged as matters of primary internal security concern.

Recent RCMP Security Service intelligence requirements also reflect a priority concern for the internal security ramifications and problems arising from the national unity debate. Foreign interference activities intended to undermine national unity or influence the course of events in Quebec and foreign intelligence activities undertaken to clandestinely collect information relating to national unity matters have been accorded priority coverage. Likewise, the possible resurgence of terrorism, or other violent acts by some individuals or groups in Quebec intent on promoting political change should peaceful methods fail, remains of priority internal security concern.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CO-ORDINATION AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

As the Canadian agency responsible for collecting and disseminating security intelligence, the RCMP Security Service belongs to a number of committees at both the domestic and international levels. Through these committees security and intelligence policy is drafted, priorities are set and information of common interest is shared. The principal national and international committees to which the RCMP Security Service contributes are briefly outlined below.

The Interdepartmental Committee on Security and Intelligence (ICSI) - The ICSI is chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet and is comprised of Deputy Ministers of the eight Federal departments with a general and continuing interest in security and intelligence policy and programs. The Commissioner represents the RCMP. As well as keeping under review Canadian security and intelligence programs and organization, the ICSI furnishes general policy guidance to the Security Advisory Committee and Intelligence Advisory Committee.

Security Advisory Committee (SAC) - Under the chairmanship of the senior Assistant Deputy Minister (Police and Security Planning and Analysis), SAC is an interdepartmental Committee responsible for preparing assessments of the internal security situation in Canada, and advising the ICSI with regard to current or proposed security policies and procedures, including the protection of classified material within the federal government. The Director General represents the Security Service on SAC and is the Vice-Chairman. As the agency with operational and investigative responsibilities, the RCMP Security Service supplies the bulk of the information used in formulating SAC's Weekly Internal Security Situation Reports (WISSR). The RCMP is represented on each of SAC's six standing committees by the Security Service, Protective Policing Directorate or the Canadian Police Information Centre Directorate.

Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) - Chaired by the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Intelligence and Security, Department of External Affairs, the IAC is engaged primarily in producing foreign intelligence assessments for interested government departments and agencies and providing the ICSI with advice and information on foreign intelligence matters. The RCMP Security Service is represented by the Director General and participates in the IAC's three permanent sub-committees: the Requirement Priorities and Resources Committee which directs intelligence production, the Economic Intelligence Committee and the Communication Research Production Group. The RCMP Security Service also serves on the IAC Drafting Group which integrates departmental intelligence for the Weekly Intelligence Report (WIR), and other inter-departmental working groups as required.

NATO Special Committee - The NATO Special Committee, based at NATO headquarters in Brussels, is a forum for the exchange of information among member countries regarding matters of common domestic security interest. Member countries are represented on the Special Committee by officials of their domestic security and intelligence organizations. The Chairmanship is shared for one year periods, on a rotating basis, by the various representatives: the Director General of the RCMP Security Service is the chairman for 1979. The Special Committee meets every six months, preparing assessments of security problems which are forwarded to member agencies and reports to NATO Council on the progress of its work.

NATO Security Committee - The Security Committee oversees the NATO Security Bureau at NATO headquarters in Brussels. It supervises security arrangements within NATO military commands and agencies and recommends appropriate changes in this area to NATO Council. The RCMP Security Service and Protective Policy Directorate - send representatives to Security Committee meetings as required.

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) - SHAPE, the European command of NATO, is located in Casteau, Belgium. The Security Service contributes to SHAPE's annual counter-intelligence review with reports on developments in the fields of espionage, foreign intelligence gathering and terrorism.

In addition to regular contact with the security and intelligence agencies of allied countries under the NATO umbrella, the RCMP Security Service maintains bilateral ties with a number of foreign agencies on matters of mutual security interest. Though RCMP Security Service operations are defensive in nature and normally confined to Canadian territory, many Canadian security interests are international in scope. World-wide operations by the intelligence services of Warsaw Pact countries and by international terrorist organizations - particularly considering the speed and ease of international movement - can only be countered through international co-operation and the exchange of information with friendly foreign law enforcement and security intelligence agencies.

To facilitate the exchange of information and promote co-operation, the RCMP maintains liaison offices in 26 posts abroad. These officers conduct immigrant and visa vetting, as well as performing security and law enforcement liaison functions. All information obtained from foreign agencies is subject to the "third party rule" which stipulates that the information is not to be further disseminated without the consent of the originator. Inasmuch as Canada does not possess an offensive intelligence agency (like the American Central Intelligence Agency) having international information collection capabilities independent of local authorities, the RCMP Security Service must rely on the voluntary co-operation of these authorities to supply needed intelligence. Such information must, however, be carefully controlled to ensure protection of the information source and future access to additional intelligence of importance to Canadian security.