

TOP SECRET

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(TD R518)**

**REVIEW OF FOREIGN STATION:
(SIRC STUDY 2011-07)**

**Security Intelligence Review Committee
June 6, 2012**

ATIP version

dated: MAR 21 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the threat environment has become increasingly global, leading CSIS to expand the nature and scope of its activities abroad to support the government's increased overseas collection requirements. In this period, CSIS entered into many new foreign arrangements, and several foreign officers posted abroad were given authority to collect information actively in support of CSIS operations.

SIRC's more recent post reviews have focussed on larger, busier posts such as Washington and London; this year, SIRC chose to examine CSIS's more modest station

Station has limited liaison relationships and information exchanges with local foreign partners, Accordingly, the Foreign Collection Officer (FCO) places additional effort on cultivating his Conscious Relationships (CRs) with other foreign partners stationed in the country. SIRC noted that, in the past, information gleaned from these foreign partners was as important and valuable, than what was received from the host agency.

Recent events have had an important impact on the station. The FCO now spends the majority of his time developing contacts who are able and willing to report on issues as it is currently a CSIS priority.

Overall, SIRC found the relationships at Station between CSIS and its domestic partners to be positive. Although both the Head of Mission and the incumbent FCO are new, there appears to be a spirit of cooperation and understanding of each organization's respective mandate. SIRC has one recommendation based on the recurring inaccurate tracking of information being shared with a foreign agency. This issue, while easily rectified, represents an area where the Service has come under public and legal scrutiny.

2 METHODOLOGY

This review examined CSIS's foreign arrangements and exchanges at station, the responsibilities of the CSIS FCO, CSIS support to other Canadian departments and agencies at station, as well as site-specific developments, conditions, pressures and emerging issues.

SIRC examined corporate and operational documents, in addition to holding briefings with CSIS HQ staff, including the former FCO during a large part of the review period. SIRC also conducted an on-site visit to Station, holding briefings with the current FCO and the as well as with the Canadian Ambassador representatives of the the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

The review period was from January 1, 2006 to March 31, 2011.

3 STATION

In recent years, much effort has been undertaken to try to transform [redacted] into a more operational station. [redacted] strategic geographic location appears ideal for operational activities, however, this has proven extremely difficult, in part due to the host agency's counter-intelligence activities. Although not as hostile an environment as [redacted] The FCO noted that

[redacted] since the position changed from being a liaison officer to a collection officer [redacted] Another impediment to the station being more operational is its location:

3.1 Relationship with

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3.2 Other Agencies

3.3 Conscious Relationships

In particular, SIRC saw important liaison work being undertaken with the CRs with regard to _____ investigation, on which CSIS does not engage with

²² National Program Overview, January 13, 2011

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4 RELATIONSHIPS WITH DOMESTIC PARTNERS AT STATION

4.1

Briefings held during SIRC's on-site visit suggested that CSIS's relationships with domestic partners at Station are by and large positive, with each partner having a solid grasp of CSIS's mandate and role at mission.

Head of Mission, who views CSIS's presence as an important component of a "whole of government approach" to Canada's bilateral relationship indicated his desire to build a constructive relationship with the Service.

4.2 Security Screening and Citizenship and Immigration

In the past, had been heavily involved with security screening,

While security screening workload has decreased,

5 OPERATIONAL REPORTING

In the course of its review, SIRC came across two separate instances where information was improperly recorded in operational reporting. The outcome in both cases led to confusion over what information had been shared by an FCO with a foreign partner.

Accordingly, SIRC recommends that CSIS implement a practice whereby FCOs must alert when a request to share information with a foreign partner is not fulfilled for whatever reason, so that the report can be amended in operational reporting.

6 CONCLUSION

SIRC took note of the hard work done by FCOs to try to make Station a valuable office
future had been questioned in light of
however recent events
have highlighted the value of CSIS having a station

The importance of liaison was highlighted in this review, and although the FCO's focus is now on collection, traditional liaison work is still a valuable part of the work. More broadly, this review highlights the importance of strong, effective communication between CSIS HQ and its foreign-based staff, particularly when dealing with operations that have multiple branches or individuals involved. As the Service expands its overseas presence, effective communication with the FCOs and accurate operational reporting on information sharing are crucial, particularly when dealing with agencies that may have questionable practices when it comes to human rights.