

ADVICE FOR THE MINISTER

FOREIGN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

ISSUE: Recent ATIP releases and media coverage may raise questions on whether Huawei telecommunications equipment poses risks.

- **The Communications Security Establishment of Canada provides Government of Canada departments and agencies advice, guidance, and services on the protection of electronic information and infrastructure of importance to the Government.**
- **To that end, CSEC works closely with GoC departments and agencies to raise awareness and increase the IT security posture of their systems and networks.**
- **CSEC is regarded as a key player in Canada's Cyber Security Strategy.**
- ***(If Pressed):* As part of its information technology security mandate, that CSEC provides, advice and guidance to Public Safety and Industry Canada to support their work with the private sector, such as through the Canadian Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.**
- ***(If Pressed):* As you may be aware, the specific advice that CSEC provides to GoC departments and agencies is based on classified information and is not released publically.**

BACKGROUND:

- -
- 15(1)

Question Period Note

SECURITY OF CANADA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

ISSUE:

On Sunday, October 7, 2012, 60 Minutes aired a 15 minute segment probing alleged security and espionage risks related to the telecommunications company, Huawei. The segment alluded to outcomes that were contained in a report that was released the following day, October 8, 2012, by the United States (U.S.) House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI). On Monday, October 8, 2012, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation did a follow up on the HPSCI report on "The National".

BACKGROUND:

Today, telecommunications equipment manufacturing is undertaken by a small number of global vendors. [Redacted] 15(1)

[Redacted] 15(1)

[Redacted] 15(1)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

[Redacted] 15(1)

[Redacted] 15(1)

[Redacted] 15(1).21(1)(b)

[Redacted] 15(1)

SECURITY OF CANADA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

- The Canadian telecommunications sector is the backbone of a strong and prosperous Canadian economy. The Government is committed to ensuring that Canada's telecommunications sector remains competitive and secure.
- The Government is working with private sector telecommunications carriers who are also committed to providing secure and reliable services to consumers. We will respond decisively to address any emerging threats to Canada's digital infrastructure.
- *Canada's Cyber Security Strategy* outlined how the Government would develop partnerships to bring together industry, provinces and territories and our international allies. An example of this is the Canadian Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee, which was formed with Canada's telecommunications companies providing a high level forum to share information and discuss sensitive security issues.
- I will not engage in speculation or rumours around the activities of specific companies. I can assure you that we are and will remain vigilant to potential national security concerns regarding the telecommunications sector and we are taking actions to address any issues as they develop.

CONTACTS:

Prepared by
Mark Matz
Director
National Cyber Security
Directorate

Tel. no.
613-993-9635

Approved by (ADM level only)
Lynda Clairmont
Senior ADM, National Security

Tel. no.
613-990-4976