

THE  
**REPORTERS  
COMMITTEE**  
FOR  
**FREEDOM**  
OF THE  
**PRESS**

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Lucy A. Dalglish  
Executive Director

October 24, 2001

Mike Gordon, Chairman  
Open Government, Canada

Dear Mr. Gordon:

At the Reporters Committee we were surprised to learn of the legislative proposals in Canada for setting aside certain freedom of information procedures in order to help combat terrorism.

In the United States, the federal Freedom of Information Act provides FOI requesters with ultimate judicial review when federal agencies deny them information.

We know of no circumstances in which that right to judicial review would be set aside to accommodate any other interests, including national security. Exemptions to the our Act provide for the protection of information that is classified for national security reasons, but the decision to classify information is reviewable by the court, if the requester so chooses.

Furthermore, we know of no proposals before the United States Congress that even contemplate the elimination of judicial review of the denials of Freedom of Information Act requests.

The FOI Service Center of the Reporters Committee regularly tracks issues concerning access to government information and provides help daily to reporters who have questions about how to use their FOI laws.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Daugherty

FOI Service Center Director

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