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Public Inquiry Into Foreign Interference  
in Federal Electoral Processes and  
Democratic Institutions

Enquête publique sur l'ingérence étrangère  
dans les processus électoraux et les  
institutions démocratiques fédérales

## Addendum to *In Camera* Examination Summary: Minister Marco Mendicino

Minister Marco Mendicino was examined by Commission Counsel during in camera hearings held between February 28 and March 6, 2024. The following addendum contains information provided by the witness that is relevant to stage 2 of the Commission's inquiry and that, in the opinion of the Commissioner, would not be injurious to the critical interests of Canada or its allies, national defence or national security.

### Notes to Reader:

- Commission Counsel have provided explanatory notes in square brackets to assist the reader.

## 1. Examination by Commission Counsel

### 1.1 Flow of intelligence related to Michael Chong

- [1] Minister Mendicino testified that upon becoming Minister of Public Safety he was briefed on the intelligence surrounding Michael Chong. He further explained that he was briefed on the fact that the PRC was taking an interest in parliamentary actors and elected officials who were outspoken against the PRC's interests, like Michael Chong. He was also briefed on the fact that Mr. Chong had received a defensive briefing.
- [2] Minister Mendicino testified that over the course of these briefings there was never any mention of physical threat to Mr. Chong or his family, prior to media reporting in the spring of 2023.
- [3] Minister Mendicino explained that the Ministerial Directive reflects the increased prioritization and expectation that he was placing on the agencies at the time with respect to foreign interference and parliamentary actors. Further, he explained that the

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directive provided guidance to CSIS to investigate all threats to the security of Canada that target Parliament and Parliamentarians in a manner that is proportional to the threat. This directive also intended to clarify the flow of information around these threats from agencies directly to the elected government including the Minister.

- [4] Mr. Mendicino confirmed that he was never told that there were any threats to the physical safety of Mr. Chong or his family, until the media publicly reported these allegations in the spring of 2023. He understood the threats to be around Mr. Chong's re-election. He testified that community groups could be exploited to engage in transnational repression, intimidation and harassment but that he did not receive any intelligence regarding a physical threat to Mr. Chong or his family. Mr. Mendicino's primary focus was to support Mr. Chong in doing his job.