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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: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau 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 PRC Targeting of Michael Chong

[1] Prime Minister Trudeau testified that he first learned of the allegations surrounding the PRC targeting of Mr. Chong through the media. However it was not surprising to him that China would, through its diplomats, respond negatively to the Uyghur motion in the House of Commons. China has a list of 'Five Poisons' that they do not want people talking about, which includes the Uyghurs, Hong Kong, and human rights. Thus it was fairly clear that the PRC would not take kindly to Mr. Chong, given his pro-democracy and pro-human rights positions. But it was only when there were public reports in the media regarding threats to Mr. Chong and his family that the PM became aware of any such allegations

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1.2 Information Flow to the PM

[2] Prime Minister Trudeau's evidence was that much of the detailed information that came out in the media leaks was previously unknown to him. Asked whether he believed that more of this information should have been brought to his attention, he said no, with a caveat. He noted that the information and security agencies process vast amounts of information, from a huge range of sources, of varying reliability, consequence and import. They are trained and skilled in determining what needs to be elevated up the levels of knowledge in order to be acted on, and nothing that he has seen indicates to him that anyone made any significant errors in how they passed things up. Regarding PRC officials' interest in Michael Chong and his family, PM Trudeau said that this was extrapolated through the leaks into "China has chosen to go after Michael Chong's family as a way of pressure on him", but that while that may be an understandable inference to draw from the headlines, it is not one that the professional analysts made. If indeed there was a credible threat to the family of a Parliamentarian, PM Trudeau is certain that it would have been elevated up the levels.

[3] However, given the extent to which the leaks undermined people's confidence in our system, PM Trudeau felt that it would be important to reassure people [via the Ministerial Directive on Threats to the Security of Canada Directed at Parliament and Parliamentarians] that a threat involving an MP or their family would almost automatically be elevated to much higher levels, regardless of how credible or serious it is believed to be. He said that he is somewhat conflicted about the Ministerial Directive because on the one hand it undermines the professional judgement of security analysts, who generally do a good job in determining what needs to be elevated, and if a lot of allegations that don't meet the threshold of credibility are elevated, they may take the place of other things, because there is limited bandwidth. That said, he does feel it was the right thing to do, in the context.