

WEBVTT

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<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host, Colin Robertson.

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<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode, recorded on June the 3rd, we speak with Aaron Shull and Vincent Rigby about National Security.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Aaron is Managing Director and Legal Counsel at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, better known as CIGI.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Listeners will know, because I've talked about their work in previous podcasts, what good work they do, and Aaron is the kingpin to make all of this happen.

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<v SPEAKER_1>A former National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister, Vincent is Slater Family Professor of Practice at McGill's Max Bell School of Public Policy.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And again, Vincent's been very active of late, both in his writing and in his actual teaching on subjects that listeners will care about.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And of course, National Security is a big deal for us.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It's more than foreign interference.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It strikes to the heart of what the country is about and with the new government.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The work that both Vincent and Aaron are doing to draw attention to this, I think is really important and that's what this podcast is about today.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So let's get started.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Vincent, you're the former National Security and Intelligence Advisor.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Can you define what we mean when we speak about national security?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, first of all, Colin, thanks very much for the invitation to be here today.

00:01:27.740 --> 00:01:33.640

<v SPEAKER_2>Great pleasure and always thrilled to appear with Aaron, who is a good friend and a good colleague.

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<v SPEAKER_2>That's the \$64,000 question and it's the big existential question.

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<v SPEAKER_2>What is national security?

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think one of the problems we've had here in Canada is that we've never truly defined it.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So if you look back through history and you look at various stages post Second World War, various periods where we had threats, where we've had, I think, efforts to define national security, we've fallen short, to be perfectly frank.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And so I think to this day, there's a sense of national security is important, but what does it actually mean?

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<v SPEAKER_2>So if you even go back to the McConnell Commission in the 1970s, early 1980s, led to the creation of CSIS, there's no clear definition.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The CSIS Act is really about threats and it talks about threats to Canadians, espionage, terrorism, foreign influence.

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<v SPEAKER_2>They call it not actually foreign interference, but there's no, again, definition of national security as an end state.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And even our one and only national security policy in 2004, there's not a definition.

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<v SPEAKER_2>They talk about objectives, about protecting Canadians, about making sure the Canada is not a base for threats to other allies to contribute to international peace and security, but what is the end state of national security?

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<v SPEAKER_2>So, it's a bit of a mugs game, and I remember grappling with it when I was in SIA.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I know that Aaron did a report a few years ago with Wes Wark, and I'm sure he'll talk to this, where they made an effort to define it.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We being, Thomas Juno and I did a similar report a few years ago, where we tried to define it as well.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And I think what we've been trying to do is take into account that national security as a concept has evolved over the years.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And so, you know, in the Cold War, I think, was very much state on state.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It was the West versus the Soviet Union.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It was very much about espionage.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It was very much about threats to governments.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, sure, there were blips on the radar, the FLQ crisis in Kananaskis, etc., etc.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But for the most part, it was that kind of a threat.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think in the 21st century, the threats have evolved,

and it's become a much more complex threat environment.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So it's not just state on state, although those remain very important, especially with the renewal, I think, of geostrategic rivalry.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But it's now non-state actors, it's terrorists, it's cyber hackers.

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<v SPEAKER_2>There are transnational threats like pandemics, like climate change, which can evolve into national security threats.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So it's a bigger definition.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We took a crack at a definition, as I said, and we said that it was threats to people, democratic values and institutions, economy, society, sovereignty, on such a scale that it demands a national response.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So that's the key, the national response.

00:04:22.180 --> 00:04:36.620

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, they've got the danger of a very, very small, narrow definition, as it was back in the Cold War, versus a broad, broad, broad definition that almost leads to what we've called national security imperialism, where everything's about national security and you can jam the kitchen sink into it.

00:04:36.620 --> 00:04:38.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Everything but the kitchen sink into it.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think the key is to ensure that it requires a national response.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So a single cyber attack on a household is not a national security threat, but a cyber attack across the country hitting various financial institutions, individual Canadians, and it's the individual that's important here too.

00:04:55.960 --> 00:04:58.360

<v SPEAKER_2>That's a national security threat potentially.

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<v SPEAKER_2>My final thought, when I was NSIA and the pandemic broke out, I remember showing up in rooms early on, off meeting rooms and going, I'm not really sure I need to be here.

00:05:07.520 --> 00:05:12.520

<v SPEAKER_2>This isn't a national security threat, but the pandemic became a national security threat over time.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Has it affected our economies?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Has it affected our social fabric?

00:05:15.640 --> 00:05:18.900

<v SPEAKER_2>Has it affected our relationship with the United States and closing down the border?

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<v SPEAKER_2>As we started to get threats from China and from cyber actors, et cetera, it became a national security threat.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So we've gone from small to big.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The danger is making sure that it's not too big and that we do try and put some parameters around it.

00:05:33.820 --> 00:05:35.300

<v SPEAKER_1>No, I think that's important.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Vincent, thank you.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Aaron, I know you've done a lot of work, as Vincent's pointed out on this as well.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Interested on your definition, if you'd like to add to what Vincent said about national security.

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<v SPEAKER_1>But I also would like you to comment on what we want and what we need for our national security, which is another area which you've put a lot of effort into.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, sure.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Thanks, Colin, for the invitation to be with you.

00:05:57.720 --> 00:06:04.920

<v SPEAKER_3>And I always enjoy appearing with my friend and colleague Vincent for a couple of different reasons.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Number one, I think he's one of the brightest minds on this, both as someone who's seen some stuff and done some stuff in government, right?

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<v SPEAKER_3>So he's not just like, he's not someone like me who's sitting on the outside throwing darts.

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<v SPEAKER_3>He's actually been there.

00:06:18.220 --> 00:06:21.440

<v SPEAKER_3>But now he's also like away from it.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So he's got the strategic clarity to think deep about this rather than just being in the thrust and parry of day-to-day operations.

00:06:29.940 --> 00:06:31.740

<v SPEAKER_3>So it's always a treat.

00:06:32.580 --> 00:06:34.460

<v SPEAKER_2>I did not pay him to say that, Colin.

00:06:34.460 --> 00:06:36.200

<v SPEAKER_3>I just want to put that out there.

00:06:36.200 --> 00:06:38.260

<v SPEAKER_3>I miss what you didn't say about my bios.

00:06:38.260 --> 00:06:39.880

<v SPEAKER_3>I've been since Wingman.

00:06:41.620 --> 00:06:47.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Aaron, I hardly think of you as a dart thrower, but when you throw darts, they often hit the target and we need more of that.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So I applaud again what you and CIGI have been doing

across the waterfront of issues in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_1>But national security is one that you have taken personal interest in.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So as they say, what is it we want, and what do we need to do for national security?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Sounds good.

00:07:02.700 --> 00:07:10.180

<v SPEAKER_3>Maybe I'll just touch real briefly on the definitional point, because I think Vincent did a really admirable job of setting it out.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I think the point is that national security can't be all things to everyone, but it's clear, I think, to just about everyone that this is not your grandfather's national security.

00:07:19.560 --> 00:07:22.260

<v SPEAKER_3>There's been a qualitative and quantitative shift.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I think the principle shift, and Vincent mentioned this, it's about people, territory, democratic institutions, economic prosperity, and sovereignty.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And in older definitions, it sounded mostly like it was about territorial integrity, right, and security of the state.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And while that is certainly present, it's not everything now.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so obviously, we're dealing with borderless threats, like Vincent said, cyber intrusions, disinformation, ransomware, transnational repression, climate-driven disasters, supply chain coercion.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Like it all sits alongside conventional military risk.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And honestly, part of the problem is it's hard to figure

out where we are because it all seems like a bowl of spaghetti.

00:08:06.280 --> 00:08:07.940

<v SPEAKER_3>Like a good example is Huawei, right?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Is Huawei, when they were in our 5G infrastructure, was that a telco problem, a trade problem, a diplomacy problem, a security problem, a cyber problem?

00:08:16.220 --> 00:08:19.580

<v SPEAKER_3>Like, of course, it was all of the above and probably then some.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so the way I think about it is borders used to be seen like a moat.

00:08:24.920 --> 00:08:26.780

<v SPEAKER_3>And they're really actually a mesh.

00:08:26.780 --> 00:08:32.460

<v SPEAKER_3>And so any torn strand, whether it's digital, economic, social, or physical, weakens the entire fabric.

00:08:32.460 --> 00:08:35.520

<v SPEAKER_3>So that's the way I kind of conceptually frame it in my own mind.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So the question then becomes, if Vincent and I are right in the way that we're defining this thing, what do we got to do about it?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Like, that's the more interesting question.

00:08:44.080 --> 00:08:46.960

<v SPEAKER_3>And I would say it's four or five different things.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Number one, and this is like an old song that I'll sing to anyone who will listen to me, strategic clarity, right?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Our last national security strategy was done in 2004.

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<v SPEAKER_3>To say that that is out of date and long since forgotten would be the understatement of this conversation.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I don't even know if you can find it on the government's website.

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<v SPEAKER_3>There's been promises of a new one.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I wait with bated breath to see that document.

00:09:08.660 --> 00:09:11.140

<v SPEAKER_3>Resilient critical infrastructure, that's a biggie, right?

00:09:11.140 --> 00:09:13.740

<v SPEAKER_3>Because that is kind of the front line in this.

00:09:13.740 --> 00:09:18.020

<v SPEAKER_3>It's not just the spy versus spy stuff anymore, but our critical infrastructure is on the line here.

00:09:18.760 --> 00:09:24.540

<v SPEAKER_3>Bill C-26 collapsed in Parliament because of a numerical drafting error.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We do have to get critical cyber systems, protection legislation in place.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We have to have credible deterrents, and we have to have a mature standing with our allies.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So this is the defence spending type stuff.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Also, there's probably a word to be said about the AUKUS and how we maybe want to think about getting Canada back at the grown-ups table.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Their human capital, and this is an old refrain that people will talk about, we have to address vacancy rates.

00:09:56.200 --> 00:10:01.620

<v SPEAKER_3>We have to get security clearances through a little bit quicker.

00:10:01.620 --> 00:10:11.600

<v SPEAKER_3>We also have to make sure we're recruiting for the conflict that's coming, so that we're not building the Maginot Line for the previous conflict, but that we're building for where we're all headed.

00:10:11.600 --> 00:10:20.060

<v SPEAKER_3>And then last but not least, something about institutional reform, just making sure that the institutions themselves are fit for purpose.

00:10:20.060 --> 00:10:26.260

<v SPEAKER_3>And that's kind of the main ticket items.

00:10:26.260 --> 00:10:33.440

<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, there's smaller subcategories in there, but if I had 30 seconds with the Prime Minister on an elevator, that's what I'd tell him.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Oh, Aaron, that's excellent.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And thank you.

00:10:35.080 --> 00:10:42.460

<v SPEAKER_1>You've laid out a menu which I think encompasses at least the key, both the institutional and process necessary.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Vincent, you spent a career in the Civil Service.

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<v SPEAKER_1>How do we get there and how do we make this happen?

00:10:51.940 --> 00:10:53.740

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, a couple of things.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Let me just go back to something Aaron said, if I could, and he made a reference to protection of territory and old-time national security or grandfather's national security.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I agree with him completely.

00:11:06.280 --> 00:11:10.840

<v SPEAKER_2>But I would say that national defence is still an important component of national security.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And I want to say that because there's often this distinction or this artificial line drawn between defence and national security.

00:11:20.320 --> 00:11:23.380

<v SPEAKER_2>In my definition of national security, defence is part of that.

00:11:23.380 --> 00:11:32.380

<v SPEAKER_2>So when you start talking about the 2% issue and you start talking about defence capabilities, that's part of national security as far as I'm concerned.

00:11:32.380 --> 00:11:34.440

<v SPEAKER_2>So you have to include defence in the discussion.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The second point is that in Canada national security is often seen purely as a domestic issue and that it's about the protection of Canadians in Canada.

00:11:42.820 --> 00:11:51.380

<v SPEAKER_2>But of course, the protection of Canadians in Canada or overseas to a certain extent also includes an international dimension because a lot of these threats originate overseas.

00:11:51.380 --> 00:11:59.140

<v SPEAKER_2>So the National Security Intelligence Advisor, I always used to remind people, has a, it's a two-sided coin.

00:11:59.140 --> 00:12:06.040

<v SPEAKER_2>That person, that individual had a domestic component but also an international component and all my counterparts dealt on the domestic and the international side.

00:12:06.120 --> 00:12:09.140

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think you have to remember that.

00:12:09.140 --> 00:12:16.000

<v SPEAKER_2>In terms of what we need to do, how we need to get there, what's it going to look like?

00:12:16.000 --> 00:12:18.640

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, I think I totally agree with Aaron.

00:12:18.780 --> 00:12:20.060

<v SPEAKER_2>We need a strategy.

00:12:20.060 --> 00:12:21.580

<v SPEAKER_2>We've been talking about it forever.

00:12:21.580 --> 00:12:25.360

<v SPEAKER_2>It looks like the new government is committed to coming out with that national security strategy.

00:12:25.360 --> 00:12:28.240

<v SPEAKER_2>So please God, let's get it out there because you need the roadmap, right?

00:12:28.240 --> 00:12:30.320

<v SPEAKER_2>It all classic policy making.

00:12:30.320 --> 00:12:33.860

<v SPEAKER_2>You need to start at the strategic level and have some kind of a roadmap.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But before you even get there, I'd back it up even a little bit.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We need a really, really, not just a good definition of national security, that'll hopefully be part of a national security policy, but we also need a clear discussion about the threats.

00:12:46.200 --> 00:12:51.940

<v SPEAKER_2>One of the reasons why we have such a poor national security culture in this country is because we don't discuss the threats.

00:12:51.940 --> 00:13:02.660

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think governments are honest with Canadians about the threat environment, and there's still this far-proof house mentality in this country that we don't have to worry about the threats because we're far from the madding crowd.

00:13:02.760 --> 00:13:07.100

<v SPEAKER_2>We've got the US to protect us, although I'm not so sure that holds so much water anymore.

00:13:07.300 --> 00:13:08.420

<v SPEAKER_2>It's all going to be okay.

00:13:08.420 --> 00:13:14.220

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'd like to see the government come out and get beyond the rhetoric, get beyond comments like rat and inflection point.

00:13:14.220 --> 00:13:16.060

<v SPEAKER_2>We're living in a dangerous and unpredictable world.

00:13:16.060 --> 00:13:22.220

<v SPEAKER_2>I was saying that 30 years ago when I was a young policy officer in the Department of National Defense.

00:13:22.220 --> 00:13:39.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's have a really honest conversation with Canadians just about how troubled the world is right now, and that national security affects every single one of us, and that's going to drive the strategy and then get into the kinds of things that we need to do to really implement that strategy.

00:13:39.100 --> 00:13:45.820

<v SPEAKER_2>So I agree with everything that Aaron said in terms of the issues, but fundamentally to get there, you need to look at the toolbox.

00:13:45.820 --> 00:14:03.120

<v SPEAKER_2>And so I would say that if we're going to do a national security review, let's look at the engine, as I often call it, the engine of security and intelligence in government, and look at that, all the components in that engine, look at the capabilities, look at the organizations.

00:14:03.120 --> 00:14:04.520

<v SPEAKER_2>Is CSIS fit for purpose?

00:14:04.520 --> 00:14:15.400

<v SPEAKER_2>Is CSC, the Communication Security Establishment, fit for purpose across the entire community, and make sure that they've got the tools that they need to deal with these 21st century threats.

00:14:15.400 --> 00:14:19.540

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think we need to move in that direction.

00:14:19.540 --> 00:14:22.120

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, let's think Colin, I always try to be balanced, right?

00:14:22.920 --> 00:14:32.260

<v SPEAKER_2>I do throw darts, as Aaron said, but I also give credit where it's credit's due, and this government has done some stuff that is often overlooked.

00:14:32.260 --> 00:14:37.980

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, on the transparency side, it created NSI COP in 2017.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It passed Bill C-59, which was a big security

intelligence piece of legislation that did a lot with the oversight bodies.

00:14:47.240 --> 00:14:49.140

<v SPEAKER_2>It has increased defense spending.

00:14:49.140 --> 00:14:54.720

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, yeah, not fast enough and not as much as we need to get to 2% and beyond, but it has increased defense spending.

00:14:55.320 --> 00:15:02.520

<v SPEAKER_2>It has done some good stuff in terms of tightening up the Investment in Canada Act to deal with foreign incursions on the economic side.

00:15:02.520 --> 00:15:06.900

<v SPEAKER_2>As Aaron said, we did boot Huawei out of our 5G networks.

00:15:06.900 --> 00:15:11.360

<v SPEAKER_2>We've amended the CSIS legislation, not as much as we should, but get in there.

00:15:11.360 --> 00:15:13.280

<v SPEAKER_2>We're moving towards creating an FI registry.

00:15:13.520 --> 00:15:14.600

<v SPEAKER_2>There's been some good stuff.

00:15:14.600 --> 00:15:22.780

<v SPEAKER_2>The problem is it's been very helter skelter and it's been a little bit too stove-piped and again, not part of a broader strategy.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So there's still a lot of work to do.

00:15:27.180 --> 00:15:36.940

<v SPEAKER_2>Again, starting with that strategy, the items that Aaron ticked off, I think there's still some governance or machinery issues.

00:15:36.940 --> 00:15:48.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, let's do a full-up gap analysis of what we need to confront the threats that are out there right now, and then if there are gaps, how do we fill them?

00:15:48.680 --> 00:15:50.940

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think you're going to want to talk about this.

00:15:51.040 --> 00:15:54.020

<v SPEAKER_2>Do we need a foreign intelligence service?

00:15:54.020 --> 00:15:59.280

<v SPEAKER_2>Do we need a beefed up national security and intelligence advisor?

00:15:59.280 --> 00:16:09.700

<v SPEAKER_2>So some of those governance issues, we've got a national security council, and I saw that the prime minister took it off the table for a while during the election campaign, but he's put it back on as a separate, distinct entity.

00:16:09.700 --> 00:16:13.000

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that's great.

00:16:13.000 --> 00:16:19.620

<v SPEAKER_2>I'd like to see the government going back to the threat level or being more transparent on national security issues.

00:16:19.900 --> 00:16:21.760

<v SPEAKER_2>More than anything else, that's going to drive this.

00:16:21.760 --> 00:16:28.460

<v SPEAKER_2>Being transparent, being open about the world that's out there, what we need to do, that's where it's all going to start.

00:16:28.740 --> 00:16:37.280

<v SPEAKER_2>If we can do that and not be transactional and not be reactive and try and get ahead of the power curve on national security, I think we'll be in much, much better shape.

00:16:37.280 --> 00:16:40.700

<v SPEAKER_4>Hi, I'm Dave Ferri, the president and CEO of The Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:16:40.700 --> 00:16:45.300

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00:16:45.300 --> 00:16:54.160

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00:16:54.160 --> 00:16:59.420

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00:17:01.880 --> 00:17:02.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks, Vincent.

00:17:02.440 --> 00:17:07.100

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm going to come back to the foreign intelligence side of it, which is something you and others have written on.

00:17:07.100 --> 00:17:13.260

<v SPEAKER_1>But I want to go back to Aaron, bring you in on this because governance innovation is part of your mandate.

00:17:13.260 --> 00:17:29.020

<v SPEAKER_1>And you've done reporting and you've looked at this seriously, and as Vincent was just saying, the current national security set up is probably not fit for purpose, notwithstanding the incremental reforms that Vincent described.

00:17:29.020 --> 00:17:53.120

<v SPEAKER_1>So what would you like to see this current government do in terms of either legislation or executive decisions that could be done fairly quickly, that would give us in the short term, because we're, you know, we are in a minority government, who knows how long all this happens, and there's many other competing demands on this government's times.

00:17:53.120 --> 00:18:06.720

<v SPEAKER_1>They've got a very ambitious agenda, but when it comes to national security, what would be your sort of top three, here's what we can do both specifically in terms of governance innovation?

00:18:06.780 --> 00:18:11.320

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, so actually, like Vincent, I do want to give credit where credit's due as well too.

00:18:12.440 --> 00:18:15.560

<v SPEAKER_3>And this is not all bad news, right?

00:18:15.560 --> 00:18:18.240

<v SPEAKER_3>Like we do, we've done some really great stuff.

00:18:18.600 --> 00:18:19.520

<v SPEAKER_3>That is clear.

00:18:19.520 --> 00:18:32.360

<v SPEAKER_3>And in addition to all the fine points that Vincent raised, you know, I think it's publicly known that CSE is a world-class institution, and they're, you know, deeply integrated with Five Eye.

00:18:32.360 --> 00:18:33.900

<v SPEAKER_3>And so we do stuff.

00:18:34.360 --> 00:18:38.540

<v SPEAKER_3>And also, you know, as Vincent said, there's really solid review.

00:18:38.540 --> 00:18:47.000

<v SPEAKER_3>Like I just was reading an NCER or National Security Intelligence Review Agency report in advance of this, like an NSICOP.

00:18:47.000 --> 00:18:50.600

<v SPEAKER_3>And so there's really good things that have happened.

00:18:50.600 --> 00:18:52.980

<v SPEAKER_3>And so all of that stuff is great.

00:18:52.980 --> 00:19:00.320

<v SPEAKER_3>I think in terms of the pinpoints and what we could actually focus on, like Vincent said, we've got fragmented machinery.

00:19:00.320 --> 00:19:02.800

<v SPEAKER_3>Like that is one thing we could get rolling on right now.

00:19:02.800 --> 00:19:06.380

<v SPEAKER_3>Now, I will also caveat this point to say, I don't really know much about machinery in government.

00:19:06.380 --> 00:19:07.280

<v SPEAKER_3>I never worked there.

00:19:07.280 --> 00:19:09.440

<v SPEAKER_3>So I would say talk to a guy like Vincent.

00:19:09.440 --> 00:19:18.800

<v SPEAKER_3>But from an outsider looking in, it seems like we've got policy, operations, assessment, and enforcement to the extent that there is, is all kind of siloed.

00:19:18.800 --> 00:19:22.900

<v SPEAKER_3>And a good example of that is a case called RV Huang, where Mr.

00:19:22.900 --> 00:19:27.220

<v SPEAKER_3>Huang was purported to spy for the Chinese government.

00:19:27.220 --> 00:19:28.620

<v SPEAKER_3>He was picked up on a wiretap.

00:19:28.620 --> 00:19:31.500

<v SPEAKER_3>An RCMP undercover officer went out to meet with Mr.

00:19:31.500 --> 00:19:31.780

<v SPEAKER_3>Huang.

00:19:31.840 --> 00:19:32.060

<v SPEAKER_3>Mr.

00:19:32.060 --> 00:19:36.380

<v SPEAKER_3>Huang was agreed to spy.

00:19:36.380 --> 00:19:39.020

<v SPEAKER_3>The RCMP officer gave him a flash drive.

00:19:39.020 --> 00:19:39.300

<v SPEAKER_3>Mr.

00:19:39.300 --> 00:19:40.160

<v SPEAKER_3>Huang took it.

00:19:40.160 --> 00:19:44.540

<v SPEAKER_3>Like this was the rough equivalent in terms of security of information or espionage cases.

00:19:44.540 --> 00:19:51.220

<v SPEAKER_3>The rough equivalent of a murderer walking into the police department, setting the gun on the counter, and saying, I did it.

00:19:51.220 --> 00:19:52.880

<v SPEAKER_3>Like you never get a case like this.

00:19:52.880 --> 00:19:54.940

<v SPEAKER_3>It was super clear it collapsed.

00:19:54.940 --> 00:20:00.400

<v SPEAKER_3>And so we have to think about policy, operations, assessment, and enforcement together.

00:20:00.400 --> 00:20:01.360

<v SPEAKER_3>It cannot be siloed.

00:20:01.440 --> 00:20:03.420

<v SPEAKER_3>So that's a machinery point.

00:20:03.420 --> 00:20:05.740

<v SPEAKER_3>The second point is maybe cultural.

00:20:05.740 --> 00:20:08.880

<v SPEAKER_3>Like we have to kind of get on our front foot a little bit here.

00:20:08.880 --> 00:20:15.520

<v SPEAKER_3>This maybe deals with the standing review cycles and, you know, briefing Canadians more on threats.

00:20:15.520 --> 00:20:30.160

<v SPEAKER_3>But here, again, going back to this idea of credit where credit is due, and Vincent will remember this, part of the problem with the national security agencies was they weren't public about stuff.

00:20:30.300 --> 00:20:31.600

<v SPEAKER_3>They didn't talk about stuff.

00:20:31.600 --> 00:20:35.600

<v SPEAKER_3>And I've noticed a huge shift in the last five years.

00:20:35.600 --> 00:20:38.500

<v SPEAKER_3>I'll give you a good evidence of that.

00:20:38.500 --> 00:20:41.440

<v SPEAKER_3>We at CIGI did a public talk with the Director of CSIS.

00:20:41.440 --> 00:20:43.460

<v SPEAKER_3>We did one with the Chief of the CSE.

00:20:43.460 --> 00:20:45.600

<v SPEAKER_3>We did one with Vincent when he was NSIA.

00:20:45.600 --> 00:20:48.400

<v SPEAKER_3>We did one with Jody Thomas when she was NSIA.

00:20:48.400 --> 00:20:50.280

<v SPEAKER_3>We did one with the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

00:20:50.280 --> 00:20:52.180

<v SPEAKER_3>We did one with the Chief of Defence Staff.

00:20:52.180 --> 00:20:54.740

<v SPEAKER_3>We did one with the Minister of Public Safety.

00:20:54.740 --> 00:20:56.820

<v SPEAKER_3>So that is different, right?

00:20:56.860 --> 00:20:59.420

<v SPEAKER_3>And so more, please.

00:20:59.420 --> 00:21:02.820

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I'll just take another scoop of that same ice cream.

00:21:02.820 --> 00:21:04.720

<v SPEAKER_3>And then investment, right?

00:21:04.720 --> 00:21:10.540

<v SPEAKER_3>And that's all roads lead to, if you can have all the national security you can afford.

00:21:10.540 --> 00:21:11.740

<v SPEAKER_3>And so we have to invest.

00:21:11.740 --> 00:21:20.000

<v SPEAKER_3>If we're serious about this, that is really what we have to be looking for.

00:21:20.000 --> 00:21:27.960

<v SPEAKER_1>When I compliment you, Aaron, I've been fortunate enough to be invited to some of the conversations you've had with NSAI's and Chief of Defense Staff.

00:21:27.960 --> 00:21:34.760

<v SPEAKER_1>And not only do you do it very well, but these really are excellent opportunities to get an insight from the key people.

00:21:34.760 --> 00:21:37.140

<v SPEAKER_1>And you asked the right questions.

00:21:37.140 --> 00:21:39.000

<v SPEAKER_1>So thank you for that.

00:21:40.200 --> 00:21:54.680

<v SPEAKER_1>Vincent, in a recent piece that you wrote with Thomas Shuno and Stephanie Carvin on foreign intelligence service, you argued that, in fact, we probably should create something equivalent of, say, the CIA or MI6, or at least that's how I interpreted.

00:21:54.680 --> 00:21:58.840

<v SPEAKER_1>So my question to you is, why and who would you target?

00:22:01.140 --> 00:22:14.120

<v SPEAKER_2>So we wrote that piece a few weeks ago now, myself, Thomas Shuno and Stephanie Carvin, I think really to be provocative and to put it out there as a bit of a debating point.

00:22:14.120 --> 00:22:15.780

<v SPEAKER_2>And so we were quite forceful.

00:22:15.840 --> 00:22:19.100

<v SPEAKER_2>And we said that this should be pursued.

00:22:20.400 --> 00:22:22.600

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there are a number of reasons.

00:22:22.600 --> 00:22:29.960

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, first of all, it's an open secret, I think, in Ottawa, that the government is seriously considering it.

00:22:29.960 --> 00:22:40.380

<v SPEAKER_2>The last time I think we seriously considered it was probably back in 2005, 2006, when Prime Minister Harper came to power and was actually in their platform, that they were going to create a foreign human intelligence service.

00:22:42.080 --> 00:22:47.820

<v SPEAKER_2>I think, for us, we are considering it 20 years ago.

00:22:47.820 --> 00:22:52.700

<v SPEAKER_2>We've never had one in Canada, a dedicated foreign intelligence service focused on human security.

00:22:52.700 --> 00:22:54.920

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, we collect foreign intelligence.

00:22:54.920 --> 00:23:03.280

<v SPEAKER_2>CSE is a perfect example on the CIGI side, as Aaron mentioned, but a dedicated service, we never had it.

00:23:03.280 --> 00:23:04.740

<v SPEAKER_2>But we are considering it 20 years ago.

00:23:04.740 --> 00:23:07.040

<v SPEAKER_2>We decided not to do it.

00:23:07.080 --> 00:23:10.180

<v SPEAKER_2>20 years later, look at the threat environment.

00:23:10.420 --> 00:23:13.740

<v SPEAKER_2>And how much more complicated it is and how dangerous and unpredictable it is.

00:23:13.740 --> 00:23:17.660

<v SPEAKER_2>All those usual adjectives that we trot out to describe it.

00:23:17.660 --> 00:23:25.940

<v SPEAKER_2>And then I think that threat environment exacerbated by the state of our relationship with the United States right now, whereas an intelligence partner, I mean, is it a partner at large?

00:23:25.940 --> 00:23:44.060

<v SPEAKER_2>But in the context of this discussion as an intelligence partner, they're no longer particularly reliable, whether in terms of

thus providing us with the intelligence that we need, or when we give them intelligence, whether it's going to be handled properly and not shared but with adversaries and so on.

00:23:44.060 --> 00:23:47.580

<v SPEAKER_2>So I've been on the fence for many years.

00:23:48.520 --> 00:23:57.580

<v SPEAKER_2>When I was in government, when I was even as NSIA, and this topic would come up, I'd use the lines that we use all the time, that a lot of people still use.

00:23:57.580 --> 00:23:58.900

<v SPEAKER_2>Not now.

00:23:59.360 --> 00:24:00.580

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's kick it down the road.

00:24:00.580 --> 00:24:03.880

<v SPEAKER_2>We've got so many other priorities right now, so many other pressing issues.

00:24:03.880 --> 00:24:12.060

<v SPEAKER_2>Why would we want to take on the creation of a foreign intelligence service which would be so complicated, so much money, huge machinery issues?

00:24:12.060 --> 00:24:13.900

<v SPEAKER_2>It would be a nightmare.

00:24:13.900 --> 00:24:22.900

<v SPEAKER_2>The problem with that argument is that if we're not going to really look at it seriously now, when are we going to look at it?

00:24:23.320 --> 00:24:39.180

<v SPEAKER_2>There are so many threats out there, and we've got a relationship with the US where we probably need to strengthen our intelligence capability more than ever because we can't rely on the US as sort of our biggest producer of intelligence.

00:24:40.580 --> 00:24:43.940

<v SPEAKER_2>This is the time to ask the question, do we need it?

00:24:43.940 --> 00:24:55.820

<v SPEAKER_2>So at the very least, I mean, again, we are prerogative in the article, but I would suggest at the very least, we need to do a comprehensive gap analysis of, okay, what are we missing right now in terms of intelligence capabilities?

00:24:55.820 --> 00:25:03.740

<v SPEAKER_2>And if we do believe that we're missing on the human intelligence side, foreign human intelligence, then is the creation of a new agency an option?

00:25:03.820 --> 00:25:06.700

<v SPEAKER_2>Is this something we should seriously consider?

00:25:06.700 --> 00:25:12.620

<v SPEAKER_2>On balance, I would suggest that, yeah, I think there's a strong, strong argument to go that route.

00:25:12.620 --> 00:25:15.640

<v SPEAKER_2>There's an equally strong argument to say, no, don't go that route.

00:25:15.640 --> 00:25:27.760

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, keep it with CSIS and their legislation, let them collect more foreign intelligence, make them more of a hybrid organization in that regard, stick with the status quo.

00:25:27.760 --> 00:25:28.600

<v SPEAKER_2>It is expensive.

00:25:28.600 --> 00:25:29.740

<v SPEAKER_2>It will be complicated.

00:25:30.320 --> 00:25:49.500

<v SPEAKER_2>But I'm just, I'm just in a world that in 2025, with everything going on and the threat environment evolving and including, including, you know, the United States, it just seems to me a no brainer that we wouldn't at least be seriously considering it.

00:25:49.500 --> 00:25:50.500

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's have the debate.

00:25:50.500 --> 00:25:57.760

<v SPEAKER_2>I hope we will have the debate internally in government and Prime Minister Carney will take a good, long, hard look at it.

00:25:57.840 --> 00:26:04.260

<v SPEAKER_2>And listen, Colin, at the end of the day, if it's decided, you know what, we've done the gap analysis and we think actually we can do it another way.

00:26:04.260 --> 00:26:06.300

<v SPEAKER_2>We don't need to create an agency.

00:26:06.300 --> 00:26:07.440

<v SPEAKER_2>We don't need to go that route.

00:26:07.440 --> 00:26:10.000

<v SPEAKER_2>We don't need to have an MI6 or a CIA.

00:26:10.000 --> 00:26:11.780

<v SPEAKER_2>And I would never suggest we need a CIA.

00:26:11.780 --> 00:26:13.880

<v SPEAKER_2>We wouldn't be that big or that powerful.

00:26:13.880 --> 00:26:18.280

<v SPEAKER_2>But even if the government looked at it and said, no, we'll do it a different way, I'd be okay with that.

00:26:18.280 --> 00:26:20.080

<v SPEAKER_2>But let's just do the work this time.

00:26:20.080 --> 00:26:23.540

<v SPEAKER_2>All the time that I was in government, it was a knee jerk reaction.

00:26:23.580 --> 00:26:25.000

<v SPEAKER_2>No, no, no, no, no, not now.

00:26:25.000 --> 00:26:25.720

<v SPEAKER_2>Don't want to hear about it.

00:26:25.720 --> 00:26:26.540

<v SPEAKER_2>Don't want to hear about it.

00:26:26.540 --> 00:26:29.720

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, it's an interesting idea, maybe, but down the line.

00:26:29.720 --> 00:26:31.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, down the line is now.

00:26:31.780 --> 00:26:32.680

<v SPEAKER_2>Down the line is now.

00:26:32.980 --> 00:26:34.960

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's have the debate at the very least.

00:26:34.960 --> 00:26:37.320

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's make a decision definitively.

00:26:37.320 --> 00:26:39.460

<v SPEAKER_2>Nope, we're not doing it.

00:26:39.460 --> 00:26:40.520

<v SPEAKER_2>But at least we've looked at it.

00:26:40.520 --> 00:26:41.000

<v SPEAKER_2>We know.

00:26:41.000 --> 00:26:42.620

<v SPEAKER_2>Or yeah, yeah, it's time to do it.

00:26:42.620 --> 00:26:43.120

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's do it.

00:26:43.120 --> 00:26:44.620

<v SPEAKER_2>It's gonna be costly.

00:26:44.620 --> 00:26:46.340

<v SPEAKER_2>It's gonna take a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

00:26:46.340 --> 00:26:47.000

<v SPEAKER_2>But you know what?

00:26:47.000 --> 00:26:52.380

<v SPEAKER_2>It's the right thing for the country to do because we need to enhance our intelligence capabilities in this in this area.

00:26:52.380 --> 00:26:54.560

<v SPEAKER_1>So we're gonna do it.

00:26:54.560 --> 00:26:58.360

<v SPEAKER_1>Just to follow up on that, who would you target?

00:26:58.360 --> 00:26:59.220

<v SPEAKER_1>Friends, foes?

00:26:59.220 --> 00:27:00.700

<v SPEAKER_1>How does that work?

00:27:00.700 --> 00:27:00.860

<v SPEAKER_1>No.

00:27:00.860 --> 00:27:11.040

<v SPEAKER_2>And I know there have been some pieces out there and there was one piece I won't I won't mention who it was, who basically said, you know, well, you know, why would you do this?

00:27:11.040 --> 00:27:13.020

<v SPEAKER_2>Because you're going to start target targeting friendlies.

00:27:13.020 --> 00:27:15.460

<v SPEAKER_2>No, this is not about targeting friendly nations.

00:27:15.460 --> 00:27:25.540

<v SPEAKER_2>It's not about because the US is not the most reliable intelligence ally right now that we're going to start conducting human intelligence operations in the United States.

00:27:26.240 --> 00:27:29.840

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think that's really the rationale behind it.

00:27:30.200 --> 00:28:02.240

<v SPEAKER_2>The idea is that there are so many things going on internationally right now that it's a target rich environment, whether it's other states or non-state actors, there are all kinds of political issues out there that we need to get our minds around economic threats, and I think the economic piece is more important than ever, where greater intelligence capability on that side would certainly help.

00:28:04.640 --> 00:28:08.240

<v SPEAKER_2>Look at the world, Colin, there's lots and lots of stuff going on out there.

00:28:08.620 --> 00:28:25.020

<v SPEAKER_2>This is not about spying on the Brits or spying on the Americans, this is about having the capabilities to actually protect our national interest by getting the information we need overseas, whether it's strictly security or even non-security issues.

00:28:25.020 --> 00:28:43.900

<v SPEAKER_1>OK, Aaron, my last question to you is, when you look around the world, who gets it more or less right and that we should be looking at when we do the hard look that both you and Vincent are recommending that we do and I think is necessary, but can we learn from others?

00:28:45.840 --> 00:28:49.780

<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, the standard answer would go America is too big.

00:28:49.780 --> 00:28:50.900

<v SPEAKER_3>So look to the UK.

00:28:50.900 --> 00:28:52.980

<v SPEAKER_3>The UK is great at doing integrated reviews.

00:28:52.980 --> 00:28:53.940

<v SPEAKER_3>They do them all the time.

00:28:53.940 --> 00:28:56.460

<v SPEAKER_3>They're well, they're well written and pithy.

00:28:56.460 --> 00:29:00.320

<v SPEAKER_3>But I'm going to give a bit of a different answer and

say, like, we just got to get on with it, man.

00:29:00.320 --> 00:29:03.660

<v SPEAKER_3>Like we don't need any more glossy, high minded reports.

00:29:03.660 --> 00:29:04.860

<v SPEAKER_3>We already know what to do.

00:29:04.860 --> 00:29:08.900

<v SPEAKER_3>It's just time for it's time for the doing of the things now.

00:29:08.900 --> 00:29:17.360

<v SPEAKER_3>And so, you know, I mean, Vincent, if people just listen to what we said in our reports, man, the world would be so great, right?

00:29:17.360 --> 00:29:20.780

<v SPEAKER_3>But I just I think the answers are quite clear.

00:29:20.880 --> 00:29:26.100

<v SPEAKER_3>And there's like on the foreign intelligence question, there are trade offs to be had, to be sure.

00:29:26.100 --> 00:29:28.440

<v SPEAKER_3>But what we're talking about is a blind spot.

00:29:28.440 --> 00:29:33.580

<v SPEAKER_3>The fact is, and like people who are not steeped in this world wouldn't know what we're talking about.

00:29:33.580 --> 00:29:48.100

<v SPEAKER_3>The point here is CSIS, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, has the ability to go abroad to conduct a human source or human operations related to threats to the security of Canada, as defined in the CSIS Act.

00:29:48.100 --> 00:29:52.020

<v SPEAKER_3>What that means in plain English is they can't do other stuff.

00:29:52.020 --> 00:29:56.600

<v SPEAKER_3>Like they call it foreign intelligence, economic intelligence, all the rest of it.

00:29:56.600 --> 00:30:00.620

<v SPEAKER_3>So as a practical matter, we as a country have a blind spot.

00:30:00.620 --> 00:30:06.780

<v SPEAKER_3>We cannot put human sources overseas to conduct foreign intelligence operations.

00:30:07.360 --> 00:30:21.060

<v SPEAKER_3>There was maybe compelling reasons for that in the 1980s when the MacDonald Commission was struck because we didn't want to be seen to be spying and we didn't want to co-mingle security intelligence and foreign intelligence because that's what the Russians did and the Russians are bad.

00:30:21.060 --> 00:30:26.200

<v SPEAKER_3>Those, at least for me, those reasons are no longer compelling.

00:30:26.200 --> 00:30:27.600

<v SPEAKER_3>I see a blind spot.

00:30:27.600 --> 00:30:37.320

<v SPEAKER_3>I say, okay, what's the fastest and cheapest way we can get out the door to make sure we've got coverage, at least on the material parts of that blind spot?

00:30:37.680 --> 00:30:42.080

<v SPEAKER_3>And then also, if you are going to spy on friends, don't get caught.

00:30:42.080 --> 00:30:44.020

<v SPEAKER_3>But this is a tale as old as time.

00:30:44.020 --> 00:30:48.740

<v SPEAKER_3>Friends have been spying on each other since they're work countries, so it's like, you know, anyways, whatever.

00:30:48.740 --> 00:30:52.860

<v SPEAKER_3>All that to say, I would just say, we could look to other countries.

00:30:53.280 --> 00:30:54.540

<v SPEAKER_3>I don't think it's necessary.

00:30:54.540 --> 00:30:56.200

<v SPEAKER_3>I think it's just time to get on with it.

00:30:56.480 --> 00:30:58.420

<v SPEAKER_3>The answers are quite clear.

00:30:58.420 --> 00:31:02.080

<v SPEAKER_3>And now it's just time to roll up our sleeves and do the work.

00:31:02.280 --> 00:31:06.320

<v SPEAKER_2>What if I could just jump in and add to that, because I think it's a really important point.

00:31:06.320 --> 00:31:08.140

<v SPEAKER_2>It's about growing up, right?

00:31:08.540 --> 00:31:21.240

<v SPEAKER_2>I've said this and a lot of others have been saying it recently, that I feel in the last 30, 40 years that Canada has gone back to being a bit of an adolescent, relying way, way, way too much on the US as their big brother.

00:31:21.440 --> 00:31:24.580

<v SPEAKER_2>We need that strategic autonomy that the prime minister keeps on talking about.

00:31:24.580 --> 00:31:31.560

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think having a stronger, potentially more independent intelligence capability is really, really critical.

00:31:31.640 --> 00:31:33.480

<v SPEAKER_2>So let's grow up.

00:31:33.480 --> 00:31:38.160

<v SPEAKER_2>I know culturally, it would be a big issue for a lot of Canadians that go, Oh my God, we're creating a CIA.

00:31:38.160 --> 00:31:46.420

<v SPEAKER_2>We're going to have foreign intelligence officers and human agents going around the world, putting bolts in people's heads and things like that.

00:31:46.580 --> 00:31:47.700

<v SPEAKER_2>No, it's not about that.

00:31:47.700 --> 00:31:52.580

<v SPEAKER_2>But spying is also a dirty business and it's a nasty business and stuff does happen.

00:31:52.580 --> 00:31:56.340

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm not suggesting we're going to be creating that kind of an agency.

00:31:56.660 --> 00:32:06.860

<v SPEAKER_2>But this is what the big boys and girls do in a troubled world is they have that independent capability to collect intelligence to protect their national interests.

00:32:06.860 --> 00:32:08.420

<v SPEAKER_2>I agree completely with Aaron.

00:32:08.420 --> 00:32:09.960

<v SPEAKER_2>We have a blind spot.

00:32:09.960 --> 00:32:11.960

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's figure out how to fix it.

00:32:11.960 --> 00:32:21.300

<v SPEAKER_2>And so whether it's a different new separate agency or CESIS gets more authorities under their legislation, I don't really care at the end of the day.

00:32:21.720 --> 00:32:22.860

<v SPEAKER_2>Fill the gap.

00:32:22.860 --> 00:32:27.860

<v SPEAKER_2>And if someone turns around and says there is no gap, well, I'd like to see them prove that because I'm pretty sure there is one.

00:32:27.860 --> 00:32:28.580

<v SPEAKER_2>But I could be wrong.

00:32:29.760 --> 00:32:30.140

<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:32:30.140 --> 00:32:31.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Excellent.

00:32:31.020 --> 00:32:32.060

<v SPEAKER_1>Gentlemen, thank you.

00:32:32.060 --> 00:32:33.800

<v SPEAKER_1>Time to grow up and get on with it.

00:32:33.800 --> 00:32:39.600

<v SPEAKER_1>And you've laid out a menu of suggestions and recommendations, all of which make a lot of sense.

00:32:39.600 --> 00:32:41.960

<v SPEAKER_1>My final question, and Vincent, you can lead on this one.

00:32:41.960 --> 00:32:45.220

<v SPEAKER_1>What are you reading or streaming these days?

00:32:45.220 --> 00:32:45.880

<v SPEAKER_2>Oh, boy.

00:32:45.880 --> 00:32:46.660

<v SPEAKER_2>What am I reading?

00:32:46.660 --> 00:32:48.140

<v SPEAKER_2>You caught me off guard.

00:32:48.140 --> 00:32:58.000

<v SPEAKER_2>I've got usually about 20 books on the go, but I picked up Snyder's On Freedom.

00:32:58.040 --> 00:33:00.140

<v SPEAKER_1>Tim Snyder's book has just come to Toronto.

00:33:00.140 --> 00:33:00.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Exactly.

00:33:01.860 --> 00:33:13.620

<v SPEAKER_2>He just had a bit of a podcast that he put out in the last couple of days about why he went to the University of Toronto because you know there's been a bit of a controversy about him supposedly fleeing fascism in the United States.

00:33:14.120 --> 00:33:14.840

<v SPEAKER_2>That was interesting.

00:33:14.840 --> 00:33:15.760

<v SPEAKER_2>But yeah, I picked it up.

00:33:15.760 --> 00:33:17.780

<v SPEAKER_2>I've just started it.

00:33:17.780 --> 00:33:19.960

<v SPEAKER_2>I read On Tyranny as well.

00:33:19.960 --> 00:33:23.020

<v SPEAKER_2>So he's a fascinating guy.

00:33:23.020 --> 00:33:23.380

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes.

00:33:23.380 --> 00:33:24.160

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:33:24.160 --> 00:33:26.720

<v SPEAKER_1>Tim Snyder On Freedom and go back and read On Tyranny.

00:33:27.160 --> 00:33:29.620

<v SPEAKER_1>Aaron, what are you reading or streaming these days?

00:33:29.620 --> 00:33:30.840

<v SPEAKER_3>I'm going to be honest.

00:33:31.500 --> 00:33:37.040

<v SPEAKER_3>I'm going to give you the answer that makes me sound smart because I am reading it, but I'll tell you what I read this morning.

00:33:37.040 --> 00:33:40.920

<v SPEAKER_3>So I'm reading Meditations by Marcus Aurelius on Stoicism.

00:33:40.920 --> 00:33:45.500

<v SPEAKER_3>But this morning I was reading The Appeal by John Grisham.

00:33:46.900 --> 00:33:49.720

<v SPEAKER_3>So I can have it both ways.

00:33:49.720 --> 00:33:53.240

<v SPEAKER_1>No, I think John Grisham, The Appeal, anything by John Grisham is always good.

00:33:53.660 --> 00:33:57.420

<v SPEAKER_1>And in this world that we're living in, we all need diversions.

00:33:57.420 --> 00:34:02.000

<v SPEAKER_1>But certainly the meditations of Marcus Aurelius are probably another good thing.

00:34:02.000 --> 00:34:05.300

<v SPEAKER_1>I was with somebody last night who said, yes, he started to meditate.

00:34:05.300 --> 00:34:06.540

<v SPEAKER_1>I said, do you mean mediate?

00:34:06.540 --> 00:34:08.720

<v SPEAKER_1>And he said, no, meditate.

00:34:08.720 --> 00:34:12.340

<v SPEAKER_1>I said, we need more company.

00:34:12.340 --> 00:34:12.920

<v SPEAKER_1>So all right.

00:34:12.920 --> 00:34:14.900

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, look, gentlemen, this has been excellent.

00:34:14.900 --> 00:34:15.680

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you.

00:34:15.680 --> 00:34:18.560

<v SPEAKER_1>And thank you for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:34:18.560 --> 00:34:20.880

<v SPEAKER_1>We were joined today by Aaron Shull and Vincent Rigby.

00:34:21.380 --> 00:34:25.120

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00:34:25.120 --> 00:34:29.180

<v SPEAKER_1>The Global Exchange is brought to you by our team at The Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:34:29.180 --> 00:34:34.320

<v SPEAKER_1>And my thanks go out to our producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:34:34.320 --> 00:34:35.740

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson.

00:34:35.740 --> 00:34:37.620

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.