

# Deported Canadian Was No Threat, Report Shows

By IAN AUSTEN

OTTAWA, Aug. 9 — Canadian intelligence officials anticipated that the United States would ship Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian who was detained in New York in 2002 on suspicion of terrorism, to a third country to be tortured, declassified information released on Thursday shows.

Mr. Arar was sent by American intelligence officials in October 2002 to Syria, where he was tortured and jailed for almost a year. Last September, an extensive Canadian inquiry concluded that the terrorism accusations against him were groundless.

Portions of the inquiry's report were originally removed for security and diplomatic reasons. But a court ruled last month that much of the editing was not justified.

The newly released sections indicate that neither the Syrian government nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation were convinced that Mr. Arar was a significant security threat. They also suggest that the investigation of Mr. Arar was prompted by the coerced confession of Ahmad Abou el-Maati, a Kuwaiti-born Canadian

who was sent to Syria mainly an immigration matter, the new material suggests that the Central Intelligence Agency led the action.

Fourteen days after Mr. Arar was detained, while changing planes at Kennedy International Airport, Jack Hooper, the assistant director of operations at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, wrote, "I think the U.S. would like to get Arar to Jordan, where they can have their way with him."

The next day, an unidentified Canadian intelligence liaison officer in Washington sent a report to the agency noting that "when the C.I.A. or the F.B.I. cannot legally hold a terrorist suspect, or wish a target questioned in a firm manner, they have them rendered to countries willing to fulfill that role," the inquiry said. "He said Mr. Arar was a case in point."

Alex Neve, secretary general of Amnesty International Canada, said previously released sections of the report indicated that the intelligence agency, which is commonly known as CSIS, did not tell other parts of the Canadian government about how it expected the United States to act.

"We have a very clear indication that that early stages in this process CSIS believed that Mr. Arar's fate was exactly what happened to him," Mr. Neve said. "Yet other government agencies were uncertain about what was occurring."

Giovanni Cotroneo, a spokesman for the intelligence agency, declined to comment beyond saying that the inquiry found that his organization did not participate in sending Mr. Arar to Syria.

Charles Miller, a spokesman for the Justice Department in Washington, also had no comment.

Several months before Mr. Arar arrived in New York, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police gave a PowerPoint presentation to the F.B.I. about Canadian terrorism that mentioned Mr. Arar three times, along with other people they believed might be engaged in terrorist activities. While the American agency asked for a copy of the slides and background material, the newly released information shows that the Canadian police "were not successful in convincing the F.B.I. to institute a criminal investigation."

The Mounties did not respond to a request for comment.

The additional information also shows that although the Canadian police had only discussed Mr. Arar with the F.B.I. prior to his arrival in New York on Sept. 26, 2002, requests for information about him after that point came from the C.I.A.

Once in Syria, Mr. Arar did not impress his Syrian captors. "The Syrians do not appear to view this as a major case and seemed to look upon the matter as more of a nuisance than anything else," a delegation from the Canadian intelligence agency wrote in an e-mail message from Syria to their head office.

Maria LaHood, a lawyer from the Center for Constitutional Rights who represents Mr. Arar, said the additional material might help strengthen his lawsuit against the United States government.

"The C.I.A. involvement shows this was no immigration removal, this was rendition," she said.

In January, the Canadian government gave Mr. Arar and his family an apology and \$9.75 million in compensation and to cover legal fees.

**Evidence that officials knew a suspect would be sent to a third country and tortured.**

an who was imprisoned and tortured in his homeland. And despite claims by the United States government that Mr. Arar's re-

