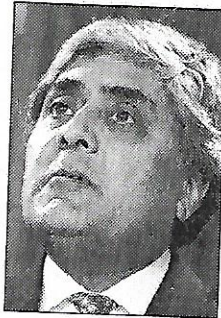


## OTTAWA APOLOGIZES TO LIDDAR FOR DENYING HIM SECURITY CLEARANCE

**Ottawa** The federal government apologized to Bhupinder Liddar yesterday after the release of a scathing report about a CSIS investigation that deprived Mr. Liddar of the security clearance he needed to assume a diplomatic post in India two years ago. "On behalf of the government of Canada, I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere regret for the impact the delays related to Mr. Liddar's diplomatic appointment have had on him both personally and professionally," Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew said. "I also wish to confirm publicly that the government has granted him a top-secret security clearance based



upon the recommendations of Canada's Security and Intelligence Review Committee." Mr. Pettigrew issued the apology to Mr. Liddar after publication of a report from the civilian agency that monitors CSIS. It accused the spy service of intentionally misleading an inquiry into its recommendation early last year that the Foreign Affairs Department deny Mr. Liddar top-secret clearance. It was unclear, however, whether the government would proceed with the appointment, which opposition MPs said should begin again with a new three-year term. *Tim Naumetz, CanWest News Service*