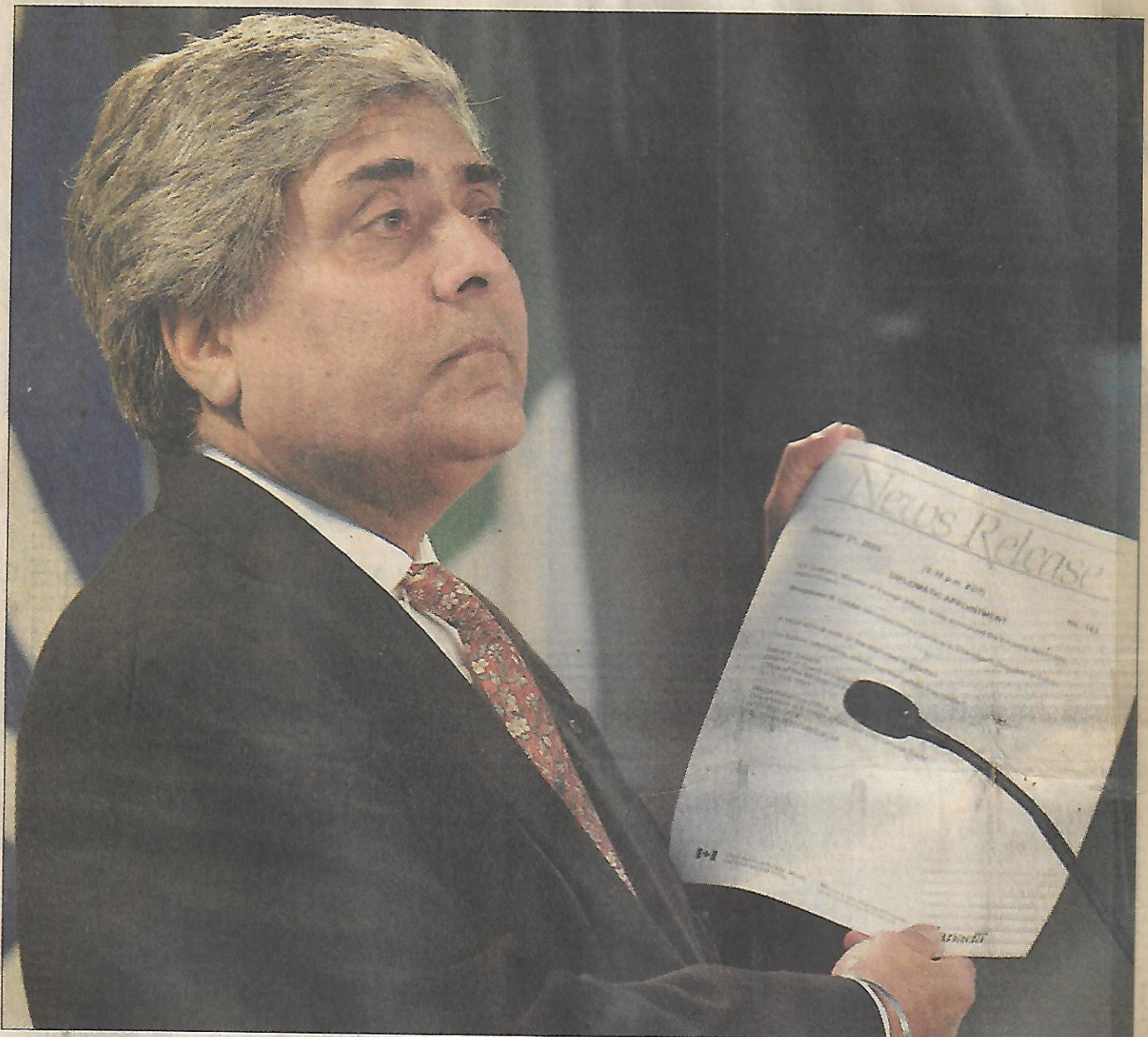


SECURITY CONCERNS STALL DIPLOMATIC POSTING



JEAN LEVAC, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Bhupinder S. Liddar, holding a press release announcing his appointment, told reporters he has no idea why the job is on hold.

Posting frozen, would-be consul baffled

National security worries cited for keeping Liddar from assuming duties in India

BY BILL CURRY

National security concerns have led the federal government to freeze the appointment of Bhupinder S. Liddar as consul general to Chandigarh, India, a full five months after the posting was announced by former prime

minister Jean Chrétien.

Mr. Liddar insists he has no idea what the government's concerns are and yesterday held a press conference on Parliament Hill urging foreign affairs to make its allegations public.

Mr. Liddar's appointment raised eyebrows when it was

made on Oct. 21 last year through order-in-council, just days before Mr. Chrétien embarked on a tour that included a stop in India. Mr. Liddar was flown to Chandigarh in late October where he shared a stage with Mr. Chrétien to announce the creation of the new consular position

in India's Punjab state.

"The prime minister introduced me as Canada's consul general in Chandigarh and (since) that time there's nothing and suddenly I hear there's some concerns," said Mr. Liddar.

See CONSUL on PAGEA2