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**From:**  
**Sent:** 5-Apr-17 4:16 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: IMSI

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Come on down ;)

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 5-Apr-17 3:35 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** IMSI

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Can we talk when you are done your mtg?  
would like to touch base

Strategic Policy/Politique stratégique

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 6-Apr-17 6:46 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** checking the facts  
**Attachments:** media lines for CSIS IMSI.DOCX

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Hi guys – please have a look at the attached and confirm back to me as soon as you if corrections are needed. The Service is trying to prepare media lines and this is a starting point. There may be more added.

Thanks,

DDG  
Rm  
CSIS  
mobile

- The Service uses technology, sometimes described in the media as "IMSI Grabbers", under its lawful authorities of investigation;
- 
- 

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is not capable of

content

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 7-Apr-17 1:43 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: CBC response  
**Attachments:**

**Classification:** Top Secret//  
**Classification:** Très secret//  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Good afternoon DG-:

Further to the Director's tasking, the attached documents have been prepared.

Reviewed and supported; thanks very much to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for putting this together.

Deputy Chief –  
Chef Adjoint –

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 7-Apr-17 12:45 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: CBC response

**Classification:** Top Secret/  
**Classification:** Très secret/  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Corrected typo in ..

TEL:  
RM:  
EXT. EMAIL

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 7-Apr-17 12:42 PM  
**To:**

**Cc:**

**Subject:** CBC response

**Classification:** Top Secret

**Classification:** Très secret

**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Attached please see the collective efforts of \_\_\_\_\_ and myself to answer the news article.  
Happy as always to discuss this if required in further detail.

Tks

(Office)  
(Mobile)

**From:**  
**Sent:** 10-Apr-17 8:30 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** IMSI Media Lines  
**Attachments:** media lines for CSIS IMSI.docx;  
**Importance:** High  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

I provided the ADE with our proposed media lines on Friday

Please review the first attachment. Specifically,

attached (first attachment) lines publicly?

if we said the

I need a response by noon today.

DG

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 6-Apr-17 5:37 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** BOUZIGON;  
**Subject:** RE: IMSI possible coms stance  
**Importance:** High

ILANA BLEICHERT;

MYLENE

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Good afternoon

Having spoken to the Director on the subject this AM

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Assistant Director Operations Enablement (ADE)  
Directeur Adjoint Soutien des opérations (DAS)

**From:**  
**Sent:** 6-Apr-17 4:39 PM  
**To:** STEPHANIE DION;  
**Cc:**  
BOUZIGON; ILANA BLEICHERT;  
**Subject:** RE: IMSI possible coms stance

MYLENE

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

ADE,

Following up on your initial draft on suggested talking points, I would appreciate your thoughts (as well as others) on the attached. ADP has already seen and provided feedback.

The attached would be used for our response.

DG, Communications

**From:** STEPHANIE DION  
**Sent:** 6-Apr-17 1:08 PM  
**To:**

**Cc:**  
BOUZIGON;  
**Subject:** RE: IMSI possible coms stance

ILANA BLEICHERT

MYLENE

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

ADE,

I will be happy to assist with the draft media lines.

Sincerely,

Stéphanie Dion

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 5-Apr-17 2:02 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** I  
BOUZIGON;  
**Subject:** IMSI possible coms stance

STEPHANIE DION

MYLENE

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Good afternoon,

With the current Media attention on the subject,

Could you please review the attached and provide comments from each of your areas of interest on the file.

List of CCs – please provide input if you have advice...

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Directeur Adjoint Soutien des opérations (DAS)

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 10-Apr-17 10:27 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: IMSI Media Lines

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Hello

As discussed, some minor modifications to the wording would be required from the purpose of accuracy. However, notwithstanding and minor changes,

Deputy Chief –  
Chef Adjoint –

---

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**Sent:** 10-Apr-17 8:30 AM  
**To:**  
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**Importance:** High

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
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**Cc:**

BOUZIGON;

ILANA BLEICHERT;

**Subject:** RE: IMSI possible coms stance

**Importance:** High

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**Classification:** Secret

**Classification:** Secret

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Directeur Adjoint Soutien des opérations (DAS)

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**Classification:** Secret  
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Assistant Director Operations Enablement (ADE)  
Directeur Adjoint Soutien des opérations (DAS)

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 5-Apr-17 4:26 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Head up on SIRC research question

**Classification:** Top Secret//  
**Classification:** Très secret//  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

FYI

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 5-Apr-17 12:37 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Head up on SIRC research question

**Classification:** Top Secret//  
**Classification:** Très secret//  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

FYI

DG

NHQ

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 5-Apr-17 12:32 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Head up on SIRC research question

**Classification:** Top Secret//  
**Classification:** Très secret//  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Hi DGs,

I am simply writing you to provide you with a "heads up" that SIRC has informed us that they will be sending a research question to the Service on the topic of IMSI grabbers in light of the CBC articles as well as the subsequent statement by the Minister.

We will provide you with more information and solicit input from your branches, as required, once we receive the actual question and have assessed it.

Thanks,

Chief ER&L / Chef LOSE

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 4-Apr-17 10:29 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** IMSI article!!

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Hey gents!,

Thought of you too in ref to the Radio-Canada / CBC IMSI article that came out last night!!

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 4-Apr-17 9:40 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** News Report  
**Attachments:** www.cbc.ca\_news\_politics\_imsi-cellphones-spying-ottawa-1.pdf  
**Importance:** High

**Classification:** Secret  
**Classification:** Secret  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

Hello Gents,

You probably saw the attached on the news last night.

The DG is has a bi-lat with the ADE this afternoon, so if you have any other comments/observations, would you please let me know before noon.

Thanks,

CBC Investigates

## Someone is spying on cellphones in the nation's capital

A CBC/Radio-Canada investigation has found cellphone trackers at work near Parliament Hill and embassies

By Catherine Cullen, Brigitte Bureau, [CBC News](#) Posted: Apr 03, 2017 5:00 PM ET Last Updated: Apr 03, 2017 6:02 PM ET

A months-long CBC News/Radio-Canada investigation has revealed that someone is using devices that track and spy on cellphones in the area around Parliament Hill.

The devices are known as IMSI catchers and have been used by Canadian police and security authorities, foreign intelligence and even organized crime.

- [RCMP can spy on your cellphone, court records reveal](#)
- [Federal officials approved Winnipeg police efforts to buy spying devices](#)
- [Vancouver police admit using StingRay cellphone trackers: BCCLA](#)

The devices, sometimes known by the brand name of one model, StingRay, work by mimicking a cellphone tower to interact with nearby phones and read the unique ID associated with the phone — the International Mobile Subscriber Identity, or IMSI.

That number can then be used to track the phone and by extension the phone's user. In some instances, IMSI catchers can even be used to gain access to a phone's text messages and listen in on calls.

## At the heart of Canadian government

To do the investigation, our journalists used a device that detects IMSI catchers created by the German company GSMK. While it looks like a regular cellphone, the CryptoPhone emits an alert when a fake cellphone antenna intercepts its signal.

Media in the United States, Norway and Australia have done similar tests, but this is the first time it's been used by a media outlet in Canada.

During tests in December and January, the CryptoPhone set off alerts at locations around Parliament Hill, including the nearby Byward Market, the Rideau Centre shopping mall and CBC offices in downtown Ottawa.

Because IMSI catchers have a radius of about half a kilometre in an urban setting, the IMSI catchers CBC detected could reach territory including Parliament Hill, the Prime Minister's Office in Langevin Block, National Defence headquarters, as well as the U.S. and Israeli embassies.

We then used even more sophisticated equipment called an Overwatch Sensor that confirmed the presence of an IMSI catcher close to Parliament Hill.

## Who is behind it?

We wanted to know more about who might be using the IMSI catcher or catchers that we detected, so we asked the U.S. supplier of the CryptoPhone to analyze the alerts we were getting.

ESD America specializes in counterintelligence and its clients include U.S. Homeland Security.

"Consistently you've been seeing IMSI catcher activity, definitely," said CEO and co-founder Les Goldsmith, when we took our results to the company's Las Vegas office.

We described the part of the city in which we detected the IMSI catchers — full of politicians, political staffers and civil servants.

"Somebody could be listening to calls right now and [the phone owners] have no idea," he said.

As for who might be behind it, Goldsmith says IMSI catchers are used by law enforcement, federal agencies as well as organized crime and foreign intelligence.

Based on the configurations suggested by CBC's results, he believes the IMSI catchers detected in Ottawa could be foreign made.

"We're seeing more IMSI catchers with different configurations and we can build a signature. So we're seeing IMSI catchers that are more likely Chinese, Russian, Israeli and so forth," he said.

## Foreign spies?

We also showed our results to an expert in Canadian security.

He knows a lot about IMSI catchers and comes from a Canadian security agency. We agreed to conceal his identity in order not to jeopardize that security work.

The expert found the results of our investigation disturbing.

"That an MP or a person who works on Parliament Hill could be exposed, that they could be a victim of this type of attack— it undermines our sovereignty," he said.

Based on his experience, he sees two very different potential explanations for the results. One domestic, the other foreign.

He said Russia has used IMSI catchers in Canada before.

"We learned that Russian intelligence was parked near CSIS with equipment on board to do IMSI catching. After X number of days or weeks, they're capable of identifying the IMSI numbers that belong to intelligence officers because the phones were spending eight hours a day in the same spot."

He said when the Russians would do their next clandestine operation, they would use an IMSI catcher to see if any of the numbers associated with Canadian intelligence were nearby. If there were, they would call off the operation.

The Russian Embassy rejects any allegation that Russians have used IMSI catchers in Ottawa.

"Any suggestions as to that kind of activities are bogus and baseless," said an embassy spokesperson.

A representative from the Chinese Embassy told us it was "not only unreasonable but even irresponsible" to suggest that country would be involved in the activity.

Israel said it had no knowledge of the issue, and the United States declined to comment.

## Canadian spies?

Our security expert suggested the IMSI catchers we saw might be the work of a domestic agency, like Canada's electronic spy agency, the Communications Security Establishment.

"One possibility is that the Communications Security Establishment has been mandated to monitor the network for protection purposes, in a defensive way," he said.

CSE said it's not allowed to do that.

"To be clear, by law, CSE is not permitted to direct its activities at Canadians anywhere or at anyone in Canada," a spokesperson said in a statement, adding that CSE respects the law.

## Police use of IMSI catchers

Last June it was revealed the RCMP uses IMSI catchers in its work. A Quebec Superior Court lifted a publication ban to reveal police were using the technology as part of an investigation into the 2011 death of Salvatore (Sal the Ironworker) Montagna, a high-ranking member of a New York crime family killed outside Montreal.

Court documents show the RCMP:

- Purchased its first IMSI catcher in 2005.
- Has used IMSI catchers in numerous investigations.
- Keeps information about the cellphones of ordinary Canadians detected in the course of some investigations.
- Recognizes phones may be affected while an IMSI catcher is in use, including possible delays in reaching 911.

The documents also show the RCMP obtained court authorization to use the IMSI catcher, which the RCMP refer to as a mobile device interceptor, or MDI.

Recent court proceedings may also shed light on the degree to which police are reluctant to discuss their use of the devices. Last month, lawyers for the federal government issued stays of proceedings against three dozen suspects out of the nearly 50 people rounded up in an operation targeting the Montreal Mafia.

A Crown prosecutor told reporters one of the reasons was that evidence gathered by the RCMP raised "unprecedented legal questions," but declined to say more.

Some privacy experts believe the Crown is concerned about whether their use of IMSI catchers — including debates about how the data is collected — will hold up in court.

- Prosecutions against dozens of suspected mobsters halted
- Edmonton police backtrack on StringRay surveillance statement

Municipal police forces use the technology as well. The Vancouver police have acknowledged they borrowed an RCMP IMSI catcher in 2007 and said they would use the technology again.

CBC News obtained documents showing that in 2016, Winnipeg police, Durham Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had also gotten a licence from federal public safety officials to purchase an IMSI catcher.

## Who is using IMSI catchers in Ottawa?

We reached out to police, security agencies, embassies and the federal government to ask if they were involved in the IMSI catchers we detected.

The Department of National Defence said it had no knowledge of IMSI catchers being used on the dates we saw activity.

The Department of Public Safety, the Ottawa Police Service, the RCMP and CSIS all gave similar responses: They don't discuss specific investigative techniques but they do follow the law, respect the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and adhere to the appropriate judicial processes.

The detection of the devices is troubling to Teresa Scassa, Canada Research Chair in Information Law at the University of Ottawa.

Even if the technology is being used by public authorities, Scassa sees reason to be concerned.

She points to a lack of transparency if Canadians are only learning in 2017 that the RCMP has had an IMSI catcher since 2005.

She also said it's not clear whether the authorities always get a warrant. Even when they do, there are still questions about what happens to the information of other people caught up in the investigation, Scassa said.

"Is it destroyed? Is it retained? Is it used for other purposes? It's not always clear that warrants contain conditions that require something specific to be done with the information afterwards."

Given that many groups may have access to IMSI catchers, Scassa argues there is a lot more the government could be doing to protect Canadians' privacy.

She believes agencies that use IMSI catchers should be required to get a warrant whenever the devices are used, destroy information that is intercepted but not related to the investigation and to report to the privacy commissioner about some key pieces of information, like how often they are used and in what context.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 4-Apr-17 11:42 AM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: IMSI article yesterday FYI  
**Attachments:** IMSI Article 2017 04 03.docx

**Classification:** Top Secret/  
**Classification:** Très secret/  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

I trust you've discussed with as well???

Chief, DDO Secretariat  
Chef, Secrétariat du SDO

**BBM:**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 4-Apr-17 10:36 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** IMSI article yesterday FYI

**Classification:** Top Secret//  
**Classification:** Très secret//  
**Not for PA / Ne pas classer**

FYI - I will have to address (briefly) tomorrow...

Deputy Chief  
DDO Secretariat / Secrétariat du SDO



**From:**

**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2017 5:22 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** Someone is spying on cellphones in the nation's capital (CBC News/Catherine Cullen and Brigitte Bureau-CSE/Service mentions)

Someone is spying on cellphones in the nation's capital

A CBC/Radio-Canada investigation has found cellphone trackers at work near Parliament Hill and embassies

By Catherine Cullen, Brigitte Bureau, CBC News

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The documents also show the RCMP obtained court authorization to use the IMSI catcher, which the RCMP refer to as a mobile device interceptor, or MDI.

Recent court proceedings may also shed light on the degree to which police are reluctant to discuss their use of the devices. Last month, lawyers for the federal government issued stays of proceedings against three dozen suspects out of the nearly 50 people rounded up in an operation targeting the Montreal Mafia.

A Crown prosecutor told reporters one of the reasons was that evidence gathered by the RCMP raised "unprecedented legal questions," but declined to say more.

Some privacy experts believe the Crown is concerned about whether their use of IMSI catchers — including debates about how the data is collected — will hold up in court.

Municipal police forces use the technology as well. The Vancouver police have acknowledged they borrowed an RCMP IMSI catcher in 2007 and said they would use the technology again.

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The detection of the devices is troubling to Teresa Scassa, Canada Research Chair in Information Law at the University of Ottawa.

Even if the technology is being used by public authorities, Scassa sees reason to be concerned.

She points to a lack of transparency if Canadians are only learning in 2017 that the RCMP has had an IMSI catcher since 2005.

She also said it's not clear whether the authorities always get a warrant. Even when they do, there are still questions about what happens to the information of other people caught up in the investigation, Scassa said.

"Is it destroyed? Is it retained? Is it used for other purposes? It's not always clear that warrants contain conditions that require something specific to be done with the information afterwards."

Given that many groups may have access to IMSI catchers, Scassa argues there is a lot more the government could be doing to protect Canadians' privacy.

She believes agencies who use IMSI catchers should be required to get a warrant whenever the devices are used, destroy information that is intercepted but not related to the investigation and to report to the privacy commissioner about some key pieces of information, like how often they are used and in what context.

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CBC Investigates

## Someone is spying on cellphones in the nation's capital

A CBC/Radio-Canada investigation has found cellphone trackers at work near Parliament Hill and embassies

By Catherine Cullen, Brigitte Bureau, CBC News Posted: Apr 03, 2017 5:00 PM ET Last Updated: Apr 03, 2017 6:02 PM ET

A months-long CBC News/Radio-Canada investigation has revealed that someone is using devices that track and spy on cellphones in the area around Parliament Hill.

The devices are known as IMSI catchers and have been used by Canadian police and security authorities, foreign intelligence and even organized crime.

- **RCMP can spy on your cellphone, court records reveal**
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The devices, sometimes known by the brand name of one model, StingRay, work by mimicking a cellphone tower to interact with nearby phones and read the unique ID associated with the phone — the International Mobile Subscriber Identity, or IMSI.

That number can then be used to track the phone and by extension the phone's user. In some instances, IMSI catchers can even be used to gain access to a phone's text messages and listen in on calls.

## At the heart of Canadian government

To do the investigation, our journalists used a device that detects IMSI catchers created by the German company GSMK. While it looks like a regular cellphone, the CryptoPhone emits an alert when a fake cellphone antenna intercepts its signal.

Media in the United States, Norway and Australia have done similar tests, but this is the first time it's been used by a media outlet in Canada.

During tests in December and January, the CryptoPhone set off alerts at locations around Parliament Hill, including the nearby Byward Market, the Rideau Centre shopping mall and CBC offices in downtown Ottawa.

Because IMSI catchers have a radius of about half a kilometre in an urban setting, the IMSI catchers CBC detected could reach territory including Parliament Hill, the Prime Minister's Office in Langevin Block, National Defence headquarters, as well as the U.S. and Israeli embassies.

We then used even more sophisticated equipment called an Overwatch Sensor that confirmed the presence of an IMSI catcher close to Parliament Hill.

## Who is behind it?

We wanted to know more about who might be using the IMSI catcher or catchers that we detected, so we asked the U.S. supplier of the CryptoPhone to analyze the alerts we were getting.

ESD America specializes in counterintelligence and its clients include U.S. Homeland Security.

"Consistently you've been seeing IMSI catcher activity, definitely," said CEO and co-founder Les Goldsmith, when we took our results to the company's Las Vegas office.

We described the part of the city in which we detected the IMSI catchers — full of politicians, political staffers and civil servants.

"Somebody could be listening to calls right now and [the phone owners] have no idea," he said.

As for who might be behind it, Goldsmith says IMSI catchers are used by law enforcement, federal agencies as well as organized crime and foreign intelligence.

Based on the configurations suggested by CBC's results, he believes the IMSI catchers detected in Ottawa could be foreign made.

"We're seeing more IMSI catchers with different configurations and we can build a signature. So we're seeing IMSI catchers that are more likely Chinese, Russian, Israeli and so forth," he said.

## Foreign spies?

We also showed our results to an expert in Canadian security.

He knows a lot about IMSI catchers and comes from a Canadian security agency. We agreed to conceal his identity in order not to jeopardize that security work.

The expert found the results of our investigation disturbing.

"That an MP or a person who works on Parliament Hill could be exposed, that they could be a victim of this type of attack— it undermines our sovereignty," he said.

Based on his experience, he sees two very different potential explanations for the results. One domestic, the other foreign.

He said Russia has used IMSI catchers in Canada before.

"We learned that Russian intelligence was parked near CSIS with equipment on board to do IMSI catching. After X number of days or weeks, they're capable of identifying the IMSI numbers that belong to intelligence officers because the phones were spending eight hours a day in the same spot."

He said when the Russians would do their next clandestine operation, they would use an IMSI catcher to see if any of the numbers associated with Canadian intelligence were nearby. If there were, they would call off the operation.

The Russian Embassy rejects any allegation that Russians have used IMSI catchers in Ottawa.

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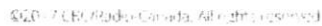
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ESD America's CryptoPhone - purchased by CBC and Radio-Canada - can detect when an IMSI catcher is trying to intercept it. (CBC )

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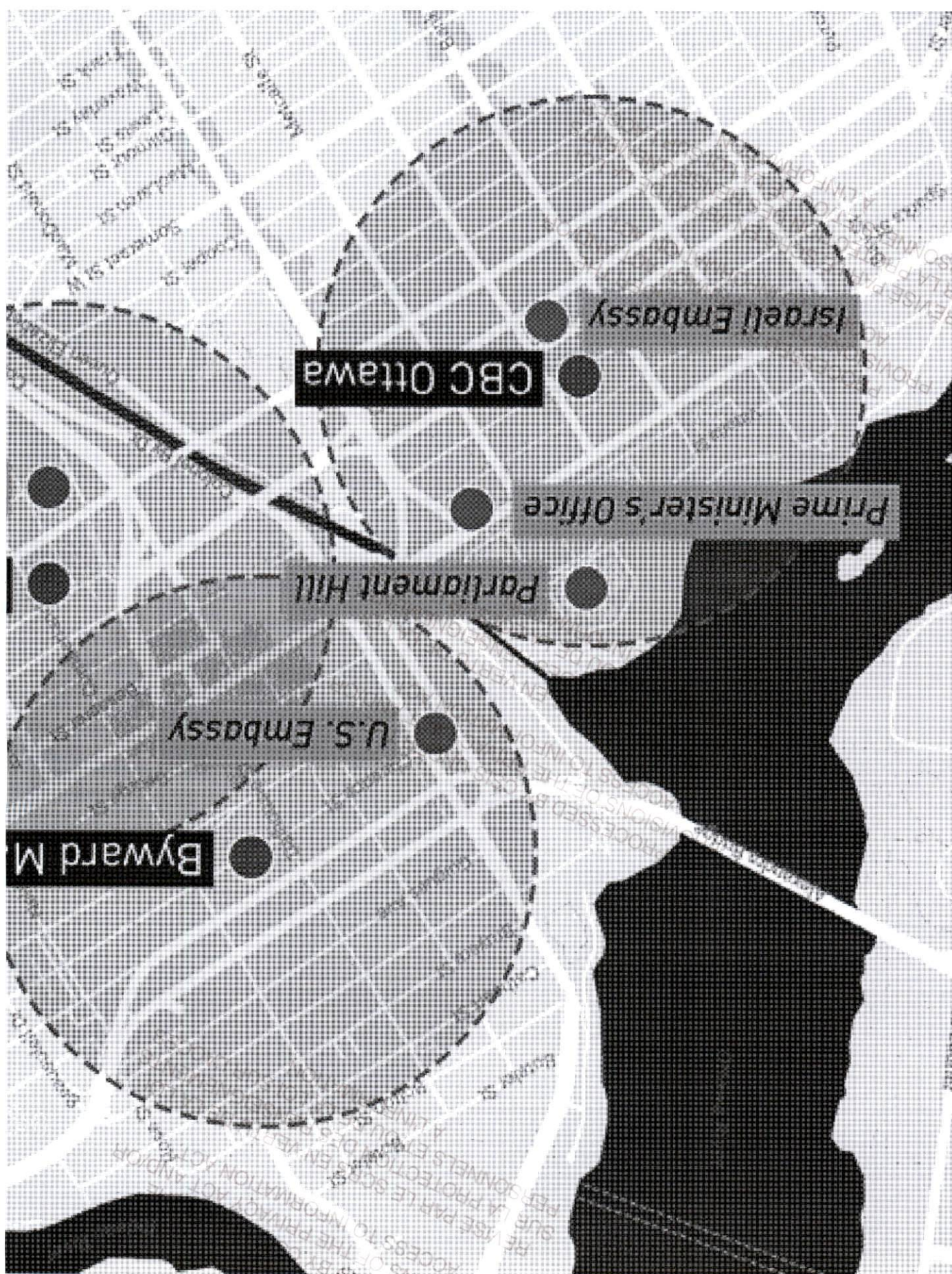
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CBC Ottawa

Israeli Embassy

Prime Minister's Office

Parliament Hill

U.S. Embassy

Byward M

The locations in black are where CBC/Radio-Canada detected IMSI catchers in Ottawa. The circles show the range the IMSI catchers could cover. (CBC )

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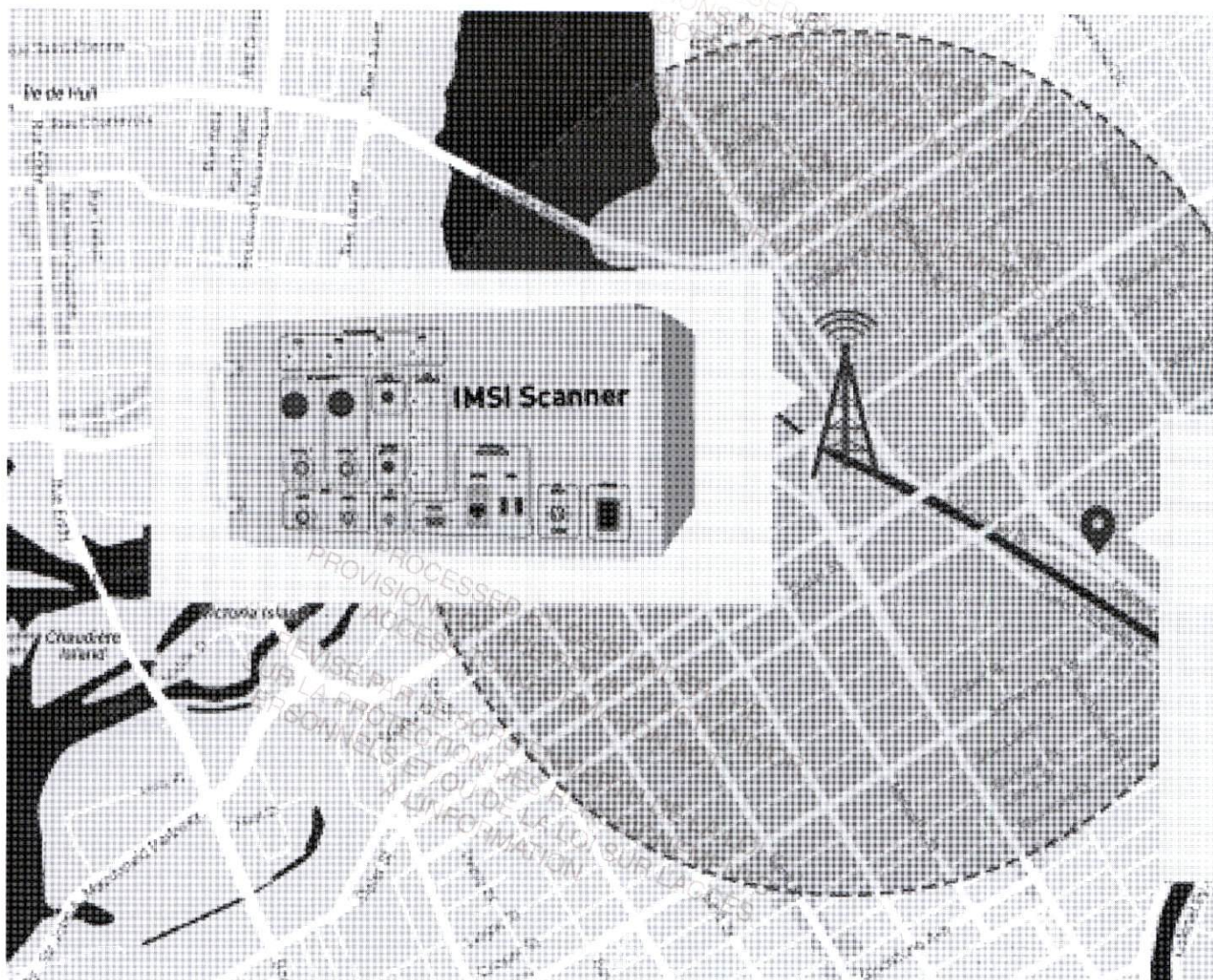
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IMSI catchers pretend to be a cellphone tower to attract nearby cell signals and intercept the unique ID number associated with your phone, the International Mobile Subscriber Identity or IMSI. (CBC)

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