
NOW EQUIPPED WITH 3-WAY CALLING. YOU, WHOEVER YOU'RE DIALING, AND THE GOVERNMENT.

January 1998. The European Parliament releases a report that shocks the world. Five nations (the U.S., England, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) are members of a spy network that aims to intercept virtually all forms of electronic communications. Its popular name: Echelon. Its purpose: worldwide surveillance—not just of other intelligence agencies, but of civilians. And at the helm is America's very own National Security Agency.

The report details how Echelon works. Land-based antennae capture radio transmissions. Satellites catch "spillover" data as it travels from city to city. And Internet-based "sniffer" devices scan emails and website content.

Other reports prove even more disquieting. Whistle-blowers charge that intelligence agencies interested in spying on their citizenry have asked allies to do it for them, thus avoiding culpability under the laws which prevent unwarranted searches. In our



country, this is nothing less than the Fourth Amendment.

Meanwhile, other government agencies have developed their own means of spying on civilians. Under the FBI's Internet wiretap system, called Carnivore, Internet service providers are forced to attach a black box directly to their networks—a powerful computer through which all of their users' communications may flow. This is like giving the FBI the power to go into the Post Office and open each and every mailbag in search of one person's letters.

Our right to privacy is on the brink of extinction. We must act now to put an end to unwarranted government snooping. Visit us at www.aclu.org/privacyrights in order to learn more and to send your Members of Congress a free fax. Although they may not be the only ones reading it.

Please support the ACLU.

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125 Broad Street, 18th floor, NY, NY 10004 www.aclu.org