

Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

- clearly separate civilian and military nuclear fuel cycles and place the civilian material and facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, as well as signature, ratification and implementation of the Additional Protocol.

The Government maintains that underlying regional security issues in South Asia cannot be resolved without sustained bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. As such, Canada welcomes the ongoing Composite Dialogue and is encouraged by the commitment of both countries to resolve their differences in a spirit of compromise.

RECOMMENDATION 24

The Government of Canada should continue to insist on the restoration and strengthening of democracy in Pakistan, as well as greater respect for human rights and faster action on reducing poverty and meeting other development challenges, and should continue to pursue these goals through a policy of constructive engagement.

Assisting Pakistan in its efforts to strengthen national democratic institutions is a long-standing Canadian objective as a critical element of a complex set of solutions required to address the multi-dimensional governance challenges confronting Pakistan. Canada will continue to work within the Commonwealth to press Pakistan on meaningful democratic development, including through the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. While the Government supports the ultimate goal of a fully-functioning and stable democracy in Pakistan, constructive bilateral engagement must include a broad range of areas - from political party activities and federal institutions, to health and education, law enforcement, customs and justice. By engaging Pakistan on broad governance issues, the Government can help foster a culture of democracy and civic engagement that could help to stem the cycle of coups and facilitate a lasting and stable democracy.

Poverty reduction is a central focus of the Government's development strategy for Pakistan. More specifically, Canadian efforts seek to improve the quality and delivery of social services, and increase access to such services by the poor. Poverty and other development challenges can be partially addressed by focussing on governance issues.

RECOMMENDATION 25

Given the critical importance of increasing access to adequate and inclusive education in Pakistan, the Government of Canada should apply stringent conditions to ensure that its debt for education swap results in tangible progress toward this goal; increase scholarships and other forms of academic exchanges with that country; and encourage the Government of Pakistan to proceed with its commitment to register all madrassas and regulate their curricula.

Canadian and Pakistani officials held extensive discussions in 2004 on how to maximize the use of proceeds generated by a Canadian debt conversion scheme to improve education in Pakistan. In accordance with Canada's Basic Education Action Plan and Country Strategy for Pakistan, officials agreed that the proceeds would support basic public education (primary and