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**REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE ON "NEW DIPLOMACY:
THE UNITED NATIONS, LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AND
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS"**

**September 28-30, 1999
Millcroft Inn, Ontario, Canada**

At the end of September, a group of like-minded countries and non-governmental organisations met at the Millcroft Inn in Ontario, Canada, to discuss the future of international relations. The meeting was part of a joint project undertaken by the Department of External Affairs and the International Trade Centre. The first meeting was held in Toronto, Ontario, in September 1999. The second meeting, held in Ottawa, Ontario, in October 1999, will deal more specifically with the realities of the changing international system by focusing on anti-personnel land mines and the efforts to establish a permanent international tribunal. This discussion will be followed by a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 1999. The wider dimensions of the international system and the role of the United Nations will be expanded to include the question of disarmament. The final meeting, held in Ottawa (Summer 2000), will deal more generally with the future of international relations.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The meeting at the Millcroft Inn was a landmark event in the history of international relations. The basic operating assumption was that the future of international relations lies in the hands of like-minded countries and non-governmental organisations. The meeting was a response to the challenges of the changing international system. The key questions raised were: what is the role of the United Nations in the new world order? How can we ensure that the interests of all countries are protected? How can we promote peace and stability in the world? The meeting was a success in many ways. It brought together leaders from different countries and organisations to discuss the future of international relations. It was a first step towards a new era of international relations.

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Dept. of External Affairs
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