

We hope that the result of these processes of increased transparency and international consultation will be the encouragement of countries to exercise self-restraint in the transfer and acquisition of weapons that might contribute to excessive build-ups.

We intend to continue to pursue these objectives across a wide range of fora. This coming weekend I will be travelling to Santiago to participate in the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), where Canada will be calling for action in pursuit of the aims I have just described, including examination of ways to curb excessive build-ups of conventional arms.

I will be seeking a commitment to similar goals at the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Copenhagen next week and at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Berlin later in June.

In addition, when we meet with our partners in the Group of Seven industrialized countries in July, we will be examining the possibility of collectively taking measures to enhance world stability and security through reducing weapons' proliferation.

In February, this Government made a commitment to work to diminish the likelihood and risks of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and excessive build-ups of conventional arms. That commitment remains strong and, as I have explained, is in no way diminished by or inconsistent with the proposed amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act.

The EIPA is the main legal instrument under which the Government controls exports and imports. The Act provides for control of exports on the basis of product using the Export Control List, and on the basis of destination using the Area Control List.

Goods and technologies may be placed on the Export Control List for a number of reasons, including the protection of the security of Canada and its allies. The majority of items are on the List to fulfil international commitments to control the proliferation of arms and to deny potential adversaries access to industrial goods that might have a military or strategic application.

These commitments have been made in the context of the Australia group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls.

In addition, export permits are required for all exports to countries on the Area Control List, regardless of whether the particular goods or technologies are listed on the Export Control List.