



Policy Development Update

May 1997

Since the 1996 National Forum meetings, there have been a number of policy and other developments in peacebuilding, international communications and child labour. Here is a summary of development highlights:

Peacebuilding

- October 1996: Minister Axworthy announced the Peacebuilding Initiative.
- January - April 1997: The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development sponsored roundtables and workshops on peacebuilding policy: Women and Peacebuilding (UBC Institute of International Relations); Lessons of Yugoslavia (Science for Peace, University of Toronto); Canada-Guatemala Roundtable on Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Guatemala (Ottawa), and other projects on Bosnia, Early-Warning and the UN, Nigeria, Disabled Victims of Conflict, and Children and Peace.
- February 1997: The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade organized consultation with Canadian NGOs, National Forum participants and others on peacebuilding to begin to identify Canadian capacities and niches, regional peacebuilding priorities and to develop a "Capacity Map" of Canadian non-governmental peacebuilding expertise.
- April 1997: The Government established a Peacebuilding Fund (\$10m) co-managed by DFAIT and CIDA for the delivery of peacebuilding projects abroad.

International Communications

- December 1996: Minister Axworthy announced Canada's International Information Strategy (CIIS).
- December 1996: At the National Forum, Minister Axworthy repeated the Government's decision to renew funding for Radio Canada International (RCI) as part of the development of the Canadian International Information Strategy (CIIS).
- January-April 1997: The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development supported a number of initiatives related to international communications, including: a roundtable on options for Canada in promoting free media in Asia-Pacific (Victoria, B.C.); a seminar on challenges facing African media (Montreal, Quebec); an issues paper by the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists on promoting free media around the world; ongoing work with the Media Awareness Network to develop foreign policy educational services for the World Wide Web site of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development; a policy options paper on "Internet Threats to State Security: Canadian Foreign Policy Options", analyzing issues of Internet regulation, jurisdictional problems and security (University of Toronto); a book project on "Cyberdiplomacy" looking at foreign policy in the information age (Canadian Foreign Policy Journal); support for a preparatory meeting with non-governmental groups for the Global Knowledge 97 Conference (ORBICOM, Montreal, Quebec).