

RECOMMENDATION 22

The Government of Canada should encourage India and Pakistan to continue their composite talks, and should stand ready with the rest of the international community to contribute to the resolution of long-standing disputes, particularly that over Kashmir, as appropriate.

The Government supports the pursuit of a peacefully negotiated solution to the situation in Kashmir, particularly one that would take into account the interests of the Kashmiri people, improve human rights in the region, and end all acts of terrorism. Since 1996, Canada and India have met semi-annually under the auspices of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, and Canada uses this opportunity to strongly encourage the Government of India to take substantive measures against acts of terror in Kashmir and elsewhere. The next Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism will take place in Delhi in the spring of 2005.

To this end, Canada supports the Composite Dialogue process and hopes that this mechanism will allow India and Pakistan to continue to resolve areas of disagreement, including Kashmir.

RECOMMENDATION 23

The Government of Canada should continue to urge the governments of Pakistan and India to work together to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation in South Asia and, given recent revelations, redouble their efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the central instrument in which Canada's nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament policy is rooted. The Government will continue to promote universal adherence to the NPT, along with new and strengthened instruments that enhance the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to respond to clandestine nuclear activities that could lead to the acquisition of nuclear weapons, and to invigorate efforts to roll back nuclear proliferation where it has occurred.

The Government remains particularly concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology in South Asia, and its implication not only for this region but also neighbouring regions. Canada regularly calls upon India and Pakistan to:

- take concrete steps to meet standards defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1172 and endorsed by the international community;
- ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- participate in the negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT);
- implement all aspects of UNSCR 1540, including institution and enforcement of sound export controls, with respect to nuclear technology, equipment and materials; and