

equally long history of law and good order. As part of the development research for establishing new firearms regulations statistical data was collected on aspects of firearms ownership in several countries.<sup>58</sup> It was evident that no one model would be applicable to all states. First there were significant jurisdictional differences regarding federal and unitary states and differing divisions of power and constitutional permissiveness. Second, there were cultural and historical differences.<sup>59</sup> Third, the Canadian legislation was very much interested in addressing the issue of domestic violence dealing with family relationships. Nevertheless, the processes and objectives involved in the Canadian experience may be instructive for states wishing to implement tighter firearms restrictions in an effort to control all types of firearms violence.

## Firearms Transfers

National firearms legislation will not be effective unless the supply of firearms can be controlled, particularly illicit trafficking. In regards to legal transfers, Canada has strict export criteria as can be seen by a review of Annex C. The importance of this issue was recently reinforced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs when he stated to Parliament that:

"I have instructed my officials to carry out more rigorous analyzes of the regional, international and internal security situations in destination countries to forestall the possible destabilizing effects of proposed sales; to apply a stricter interpretation of human rights criteria, including increasing our requirements for end-user certificates and other end-use assurances, to further minimize the risk that Canadian military equipment might be used against civilians; and exercise the strictest controls over the export of firearms and other potentially lethal equipment to satisfy me that gun control laws and practices in recipient countries are adequate to ensure that Canadian firearms do not find their way into the illicit arms trade nor fuel local violence."<sup>60</sup>

However, legislation and regulation are one thing, enforcement another. Recent incidents in Canada have demonstrated that Canada is not immune to illicit firearms transfers into the country and through the country. The potential for an influx of firearms is compounded by a long border with the USA whose attitudes towards gun regulation and the

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<sup>58</sup> See Technical Document Firearms Control Task Group *A Review of Firearms Statistics and Regulations in Selected Countries*, Research, Statistics and Evaluation Directorate, Department of Justice Canada, 25 April 1995. This study analyzed seven countries, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, France and the USA on the basis of firearm ownership (numbers of firearms), casualties and regulations.

<sup>59</sup> Kopel, David B. *The Samurai, the Mountie and the Cowboy: Should America Adopt the Gun Controls of Other Democracies?* Prometheus Books, Buffalo New York 1992.

<sup>60</sup> See. DFAIT. *Notes For An Address by The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy Minister of Foreign Affairs On The Annual Report on Military Exports*. 96/31 Ottawa, June 18, 1996, 8