

permits for military goods to such countries where there is no reasonable risk that the goods would be used against the civilian population.

Q11. Is there a list of countries to which exports of military goods will be denied?

A. Firstly, the policy speaks of "closely controlling" exports of military goods to certain categories of countries. This means that such exports would generally be refused, but there may be extraordinary circumstances under which Ministers might wish to agree to an export.

It is not our intention to publish a list of countries which are affected by this policy. Such a list will be a Cabinet confidence. The identity of some countries is self-evident; that of others will be more sensitive. The list will be reviewed regularly. It is not desirable that the presence or absence of any country on a list such as this be a matter of public controversy. Canada is a trading nation, and this Government encourages trade in peaceful goods with all nations. We would be loath to see Canadian exporters cut out of certain markets for non-military goods, as a result of our decision about a country's human rights record.

Q12. Are export permits available under Access to Information?

A. Information supplied by export permit applicants is generally considered by these applicants to be commercially confidential, and when queried about release, they have claimed exemption under Section 20(1) of the Access to Information Act. Some have even indicated that the existence of their contracts is governed by the Official Secrets Act of the signatory country. The Minister has accepted these claims and respects their need to guard the relations between client and exporter as private.

The effectiveness of the export control system relies on frank and honest disclosure by the exporter in reporting his proposed exports to this Department, on the vigilance of officials administering the policy, and on forthright enforcement of the law.