

New York, November 1998

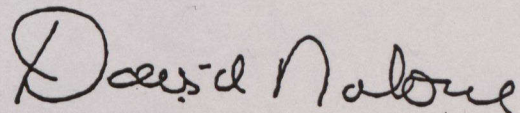
The genesis of this volume was two-fold:

Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy's forceful promotion of international action on human security focussed the attention of many of us toiling within the trenches of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) on a number of key humanitarian concerns;

Canada's candidacy for a UN Security Council seat in 1999-2000 created the prospect that the Canadian government would soon be confronting hard choices relating to incentives towards (and enforcement of) compliance with Security Council decisions. Since 1990, the Council had greatly increased resort to mandatory sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. By the late 1990s, this Council practice was increasingly contested.

Canadian official policy on sanctions clearly required a new look. In late 1997, the International Organizations Bureau of DFAIT, of which I was then the Director General, commissioned an in-depth study on UNSC-mandated sanctions. The splendid paper contained in this volume was drafted over ensuing months by a highly promising young Canadian scholar, Barry Burciul. The Center for Foreign Policy Development, in July 1998, convened a consultation involving a variety of experts and interested parties on the issues raised therein, with a view to developing Canadian approaches to sanctions issues in preparation of our anticipated term on the Council. The purpose was to test the pulse of informed opinion in Canada on these critical questions and to develop policy options for the government. The CFPD and those DFAIT officials involved were delighted with both the paper and the consultation, which yielded considerably greater consensus than might have been anticipated. A summary report on these consultations is also included in this volume. Minister Axworthy was engaged throughout (although he had to miss the consultation due to an urgent engagement out of Ottawa at the last minute).

Beyond the value of this project itself, the active collaboration of a DFAIT Bureau with the CFPD to develop Canadian policy in a sensitive field points to at least one way in which the CFPD can be extremely useful. Too often in the past, civil society, the academic world, the CFPD and policy units within DFAIT have evolved in their respective solitudes. On this occasion, with an urgent need for new approaches to policy, the CFPD proved an excellent catalyst and intermediary for DFAIT in securing access to a broad range of Canadian (and several foreign) views. It is my hope that DFAIT and the CFPD will relate to each other in this fashion more often in the future.



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