

*Government Orders*

arms transfers, Canada has begun publishing annual reports on exports of arms from Canada.

Should this bill go through and should Diemaco in my riding which makes all of the rifles for the Canadian Armed Forces be permitted and win the contract with, say, the Netherlands, then that would be put into this annual report. A full accounting of every gun we sell to the Netherlands would go in that report. It would be fully transparent for all to see.

At the same time we recognize that all countries have a legitimate right to self-defence. Canadian firms should have the opportunity to meet their requirements within the strict limits imposed by Canadian arms control policy and export control licensing requirements and procedures.

These controls will be applied in two stages. First, a defence research, development and production agreement will have to exist between Canada and the country of final destination, and that country will have to be included, as I indicated earlier, on the Automatic Firearm Country Control List maintained under the Export and Import Permits Act.

• (1150)

If an arrangement does not already exist, one would have to be negotiated. The proposal to add the country to the Automatic Firearms Country Control List would have to be approved by cabinet through an Order in Council.

The Canadian government will closely control proposals to establish arrangements with other countries. There are four criteria which I would like to go through:

1. Countries that pose a threat to Canada or its allies would not get on the list.
2. Countries involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities would not get on the list.
3. Countries under United Nations Security Council's sanction would not get on the list.
4. Countries whose governments have a persistent record of serious human rights violations, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against their civilian population, would not get on the list.

Those are four very clear criteria.

Exports of automatic weapons would be permitted only to a government with which Canada concludes the necessary arrangements, or to a consignee authorized by that government. They would never go to civilians. This is a government to government sale under these stringent controls.

Applications to export automatic weapons will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to the same licensing procedures applied to all exports of military goods from Canada. Military goods are defined as those listed under Group 2 of the export control list. Automatic weapons are listed under item 2001—small arms and machine guns. These procedures include providing an end use statement and supporting document, and most notably an import certificate from the country of final destination. Applications to export automatic weapons to countries which comply with the above criteria would be closely controlled. In particular, all such applications would be subject to an interdepartmental review and would have to be approved personally by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The creation of the new stringent export controls, in particular the creation of the Automatic Firearms Country Control List, completely satisfies my concerns and those of the government with respect to arms control.

Canada will continue to advocate increased international restraint and effective controls on the export of conventional weapons. At the same time Canada continues to recognize that all countries have the right to self-defence as guaranteed under article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This bill will give Canadian firms the opportunity to help Canada's close allies and defence partners meet their legitimate defence requirements.

The bill does not represent any relaxation of Canada's export control policy. All exports of these weapons will be tightly controlled using the same stringent guidelines long applied to all exports of Canadian military goods. I might further add that Canada currently has defence production arrangements with 10 countries, of which Sweden is the only one that is not a member of NATO, hardly a country that we would say is a country we would not want to have this type of opportunity to export to.