



- April-September 1997: The 1997 National Forum (Asia-Pacific) to include workshops on policy development for promoting Canadian culture and values in Asia, including free media and human rights.
- April 1997: The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade established a CIIS Secretariat. Three committees were also established to direct the development of the CIIS: (i) Interdepartmental Committee; (ii) Steering Committee of 4 private sector experts; (iii) Management Committee involving Steering Committee members and core government departments (DFAIT, CIDA, Heritage and Industry). Work on the Strategy is now in the information gathering/research stage. Feasibility studies have been commissioned to explore the idea of creating a possible Canadian International Information Network -- a vehicle to transmit Canadian content globally using radio, TV and the Internet. In addition, the Department is looking a number of other related ideas: use of new information technologies in support of peacekeeping/peacebuilding operations; using the Internet and other technologies for media training for journalists; development of a human rights network in Guatemala using the Internet; a short video for general dissemination on the landmines issue as part of a public advocacy campaign. Results of feasibility studies and policy development research to be presented to Ministers in the fall of 1997.

The summit will bring together youth between the ages of 19 and 25, NGOs and government officials to help advance the agenda developed at the August 1996 World Congress Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children; support for a joint Marquis Project/Pueblito Canada project entitled: "Youth Exploitation: Involving Local Youth in Building Foreign Policy". A programme of research, consultations, and public awareness-building, to be conducted in Ontario and Manitoba, involving students, NGOs, labour, academics and other civil society groups to develop policy alternatives on the issue of child labour exploitation.

- February 1997: The Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Sustainable Human Development issues report "Ending Child Labour Exploitation - A Canadian Agenda for Action on Global Challenges" was released. The report contained detailed recommendations to the Government for addressing child labour exploitation. Recommendations included a larger role for the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development in child labour policy development.
- April-September 1997: The 1997 National Forum (Asia-Pacific) to address the issues and design of a code of conduct for Canadian businesses in Asia. The code to address child labour exploitation issues.
- April 1997: as part of the response to the Sub-Committee report, Minister Axworthy announced a Child Labour Challenge Fund to support Canadian private sector initiatives aimed at addressing child labour exploitation internationally. Through a \$200,000 annual fund, the Government will match and support private sector projects and initiatives such as the development of voluntary codes of conduct and consumer labelling schemes. Government-wide response to the Sub-Committee is currently being prepared.

Childrens Rights

- January 1997 and ongoing: Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development support for children's rights policy projects includes: roundtables and other preparation for the "International Youth Summit on Sexually Exploited Youth", mid-1998, Victoria, B.C.