



communiqué

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EXPORT CONTROLS POLICY

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced new guidelines following a review of export controls policy undertaken by the Government.

Mr. Clark indicated that the review had been undertaken in response to concerns expressed by various groups, particularly persons concerned that Canadian exports might contribute to the repression of human rights in certain countries. Business and industry had also expressed concern that the export controls framework was unresponsive to changing circumstances. The results of this review have balanced industry concerns with broader foreign policy objectives, as well as streamlining and clarifying the policy.

The Minister stressed that Canada will not allow the export of military equipment to countries whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population: "The new policy with respect to countries with serious human rights problems places the onus of proving 'no reasonable risk' squarely on the exporter".

Mr. Clark pointed out that the previous policy had also restricted exports of civilian strategic equipment. The new policy focusses on military equipment and will restrict the export of civilian strategic equipment only to COCOM proscribed destinations - principally, the Soviet Union and

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