

Background provides an account of the basic issue. It seeks to avoid excessive detail, but to draw on recent material as appropriate in order to set the context of current policy issues. Where Canadian policy prior to 1985 was integral to the development of the issue itself, or where it is necessary to an understanding of the current Canadian position, it is included under this heading.

Current Canadian Position is based on statements by Ministers and responsible officials, and identifies the development of Canadian policy since January 1985.

Parliamentary Comment is intended primarily to capture the formal response of the opposition parties. For the most part it relies on statements and questions in the House of Commons by designated spokespersons on foreign and defence policy. Committee hearings have been used primarily in the Background section, and, when appropriate, in describing the current Canadian position.

Current References is designed for the most part to indicate only some of the most recent materials relevant to the issue; the section is not intended to be an extensive reference list.

The Institute may consider updating and expanding this guide on an annual basis. Therefore, we welcome and invite comment on its utility, and format, and suggestions for improvement. Specifically, we envisage that a further edition would cover the period August 1st 1986–July 31st 1987. It might also extend the coverage to include editorial and other opinion on the issues identified.