

making of such policy. Furthermore, although the Canadian government has made several arms export proposals on the international scene,¹² the events surrounding Bill C-6 raise questions about the consistency of efforts in this area. There is considerable pressure being exerted on the government to listen favourably to those who demand tighter controls over Canada's arms trade.

The majority of government critics do not deny the right of nations to provide for their defence or the role of the military industry in arming the Canadian Forces and their allies. They argue the case of Iraq demonstrates that countries selling arms must recognize their responsibility for the course of international events, and that it is in their long-term interest to limit arms proliferation. There are also more and more Canadians who believe that the democratic process would be strengthened if arms sales were submitted to closer public control.

CONCLUSION

The movement to limit strategic exports by Canada is at an important stage in its evolution. The COCOM list has been shortened and is no longer as important as it once was. At the same time, the need to control dual-use technologies employed to manufacture nuclear and chemical weapons and missiles has become increasingly clear.

More and more interest is being shown in the issue of arms exports. Canada has been promoting transparency and restraint in the sale of arms, but has left itself open to criticism by promoting the sale of light armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia and allowing the export of automatic weapons. At the upcoming hearings of the subcommittee of the House Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, the partisans of the *status quo* will be attacked for the neglect of moral and political factors, while the defenders of stricter norms will fight accusations of excessive moralism. A new equilibrium between these contending views will have to be found in dialogue. This should inspire the government's decisions on arms export policy.

NOTES

- 1 *Export and Import Permits Act*, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1953, c. E-17 (the abbreviation "R.S." is used subsequently to designate the 1985 Revised Statutes).
- 2 *Export and Import Permits Act*, R.S., c. E-19.
- 3 *Atomic Energy Control Act*, R.S., c. A-19, s.9.
- 4 *An Act respecting Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations*, R.S., c. U-3.

- 5 *An Act respecting the exporting, importing, manufacturing, buying or selling of or other dealing with certain weapons*, adopted 19 June 1991.
- 6 *Criminal Code*, R.S., c. C-34, particularly Sections 84 to 105.
- 7 See Canada, External Affairs and International Trade Canada, *A Guide to the Export Control List*, August 1990.
- 8 For further discussion of the MTCR, see: Marie-France Desjardins, *Ballistic Missile Proliferation*, Background Paper No. 34, CIIPS, Ottawa, September 1990.
- 9 Canada, Department of External Affairs, "Export Controls Policy," *Communiqué* No.155, 10 September 1986, and "Export Controls Policy: Background Paper," and "Export Controls Policy: Questions and Answers" (Attachments to *Communiqué* No. 155).
- 10 See the *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of Legislative Committee "E" on Bill C-6*, 11-13 June and 17 June 1991.
- 11 Ernie Regehr, *Arms Canada*, Lorimer, Toronto, 1987.
- 12 For example, on 8 February 1991, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs delivered simultaneous addresses in Ottawa and Quebec City in which they stated Canada's desire to restrict the proliferation of weapons. They proposed a world summit on the instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction.



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