

Report on the Conference Mexican Human Rights and Security: Policy Options for Canada  
March 1998

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Dept. of Foreign Affairs  
Min. des Affaires étrangères  
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Speakers at this conference included Ms. Marlene MacLeod, Member of Parliament for the  
Defence and Protection of Human Rights, Dr. Daniela Sandoval, Secretary of State for  
Americas Branch, US Army War College, Professor Ian Foster, College of Law, University of  
Saskatchewan, Professor John Saxe-Fernandez, Department of Law, University of Mexico, and Dr. James Rochlin, Okanagan University College.

Highlights of the presentations and discussions include growing awareness of the human rights  
problem in Mexico, escalation of the human rights problem with abuses committed by the police  
and paramilitary forces, Canada's role in the promotion of human rights abuses in Mexico at  
the expense of its own interests.

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... and distribution of  
... the military, the role of  
... political-economic underpinnings  
... especially the "casino"  
... and discussing  
... the structure of Mexican and  
... and the implications for NAFTA

Recommendations

- More research is required on the role of Mexican instability and human rights abuses, and the threats posed to Canada through NAFTA.
- Canada should provide start-up funding for transparent, NGO-led efforts that are key to Mexico's democratisation, and to the struggle for human rights.
- Canada should work through the OAS and the UN to promote human rights in Mexico.
- Canada should give greater consideration to its trade relations with Mexico to the human rights abuses in NAFTA.
- Canada should encourage the disengagement of the Mexican military from operations against narcotrafficking.

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