

Code, which forbids the sale of automatic weapons except to the Canadian military and police forces. In contrast to other arms systems and components, therefore, which may be exported subject to the provisions of the EIPA, the Criminal Code imposed an outright ban on the export of automatic weapons.

Arguing that a complete ban on the export of automatic weapons was an anomaly, since the Group Two munitions list contained weapons far more lethal than automatic weapons, and emphasizing that Canadian companies would not be able to compete if they were completely excluded for all foreign markets, the Government proposed to amend the EIPA by creating an Automatic Weapons Firearms Country Control List which would set out the names of those countries to which Canadian manufacturers could sell. In introducing the amendments to C-6, Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, declared that the amendments

...will help place our defence industrial base on a competitive footing. They will also help Canada's overall defence capability. Canadian companies, only able to rely on domestic orders, are in danger of losing their viability.⁹

He also stated that the amendment was "fully consistent with Canada's program of action to bring greater transparency and consultation to the international trade in conventional weapons."¹⁰

The new Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, commented:

I join the debate on Bill C-6 with a particular purpose in mind, and that is to respond to the suggestions that the proposed amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act are inconsistent with the arms control proposals made in February by the Prime Minister and Mr. Clark. No such inconsistency exists. Under the proposed amendments, exports of automatic weapons will be subject to the same stringent controls that have long been applied to the export of other military goods from Canada. These controls fully reflect Canada's arms control and disarmament policies.

Mrs. McDougall went on to note that:

...we are not proposing to put an end to the arms trade per se. Nor are we proposing to constrain any countries' ability to acquire arms for legitimate defence purposes. We have never suggested that defence needs should be left unmet.¹¹

⁹Minister for International Trade, "Amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act," *News Release*, no. 123, 23 May 1991.

¹⁰Minister for International Trade. "Notes for an Address to the House of Commons Debate on Second Reading, Bill C-6," *Statement*, 91/25, 30 May 1991.

¹¹Department of External Affairs. "Statement by the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on Amendments to the Export and Import Act," *Statement*, 91/27, 30 May 1991:1.