

**REPORT FROM THE CALGARY ROUND TABLE:
HELPING TO DEVELOP A CANADIAN POLICY DISCUSSION
ON THE AMERICAS**

March 17, 1999

On March 17th the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, as a part of its mandate to engage Canadians in shaping foreign policy, organised a round table in Calgary to help develop a Canadian discussion on the Americas. Hosted by the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts, the round table was attended by a wide range of NGOs, academics, experts on the region, business people, as well as government officials. It was the first in a series of planned meetings over the next two years, beginning a Canadian conversation on issues that may deserved further public discussion and policy development attention. The meeting was broadcast live on the Internet and can be viewed in full at this address: <http://www.panam-bydesign.net/ccfpd/invitation.htm>. The following is an integrated summary of five panel presentations that launched and informed the afternoon discussions, reports from three brainstorming sessions that followed, and notes from concluding remarks.

Summary of Panel Presentations

The afternoon conversation was started by Steven Lee, National Director of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD), who set the goals for the round table. He stressed the **important role that academics, NGOs, and other Canadians have in shaping foreign policy** and the need to broaden the policy circle beyond Ottawa and the traditional stakeholders -- a goal to which, at Minister Axworthy's request, the CCFPD is dedicated. He also pointed out the importance of the Centre's partnership with Foreign Affairs and the participation of senior Foreign Affairs officials at this meeting. The purpose of the round table was to begin a conversation on hemispheric issues and to signal interests that may deserve further public discussion and policy development attention. Key goals included identifying Canadian interests and priorities in the hemisphere and the inclusion of Canadians in the policy making process.

Following the introductory remarks, **George Haynal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Americas**, outlined the government's two year program of regional events. He stressed that these events will be carried out in the broader context of Canada's foreign policy objectives: 1) Canadian prosperity in a prosperous world, 2) Canadian security in a stable