

MEMORANDUM

Date: 24 April 1998

To: The Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., M.P.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

From: Steve Lee, National Director
Centre for Foreign Policy Development

Subject: Summary Report, "Balkans Roundtable," 31 March 1998

Several important issues were raised at the roundtable, which focused in particular on Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. These issues include the following:

- international responsibilities: foreign investment, military intervention, sanctions, need for a global policy
- refugees and unprotected human rights: cultural, educational, political
- incomplete democratic and market economic transitions in the region: underdeveloped civil societies, poor infrastructures, absence of or weak institutions such as free media, free and fair multi-party elections, rule of law
- expectations of continued political and social instability in the region, continuation of nationalist perspectives, and poor economic performance.

Policy options which emerged:

1. Promotion of civil society development
 - establish grant programs that are linked to specific elements of civil society development (NGOs that are multi-ethnic)
 - focus on non-nationalist interests, such as gender-based or environmental NGOs
 - widen focus to include regional centres and not just capital cities
2. Capacity-building and institutional development
 - university contacts and other exchanges
 - computer and technological assistance
3. Long-term monitoring missions to continually evaluate the situation on the ground