



Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce international

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# NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE LLOYD AXWORTHY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO (ITAM) "CANADA'S HUMAN SECURITY AGENDA FOR THE HEMISPHERE"

MEXICO CITY, Mexico  
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In recent years, Canada and Mexico have come to know each other better. As our relationship develops, partnerships and co-operation — international, regional and bilateral — have grown considerably. An important part of this has been the expanding number and variety of direct contacts — economic, political, social, cultural and academic — between Canadians and Mexicans. In that regard, I am very pleased to be with you to share some thoughts on Canada's foreign policy.

As both students and practitioners of international politics, you are well aware that security — obtaining and maintaining it — has been a traditional *leitmotif* in global politics. Indeed, Mexico has been a leader in building multilateral agreements to advance global security, notably in the area of disarmament and arms control. This was reflected most clearly through Mexico's leadership in developing the Treaty of Tlatelolco, for which, among his other accomplishments, former Foreign Minister Garcia Robles was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982.

Today, I would like to address the evolving challenges to global security in a changing world, review Canada's response, discuss the hemispheric dimension, and focus on one issue in particular — the fight against illicit drugs.

### **The Challenge Of Human Security**

The events of the past decade have diverted the global community from the well-worn trails of the Cold War to new, uncharted paths toward the next century. As a result, our traditional guidebook for global security is in need of an update. A few certainties have emerged from the new world disorder to help give us our bearings.

Civilians are increasingly the main victims and targets of violent conflicts — especially the most vulnerable. This is partly the result of a change in the complexion of war. The majority of conflicts now occur inside rather than between states. Regardless, the world has witnessed human tragedies of devastating proportions — massive refugee flows and the grossest violations of humanitarian law, including genocide.

The nature of threats to global security is evolving. Many are multifaceted, and have a transnational dimension. The challenges posed by illicit drugs, terrorism, environmental despoliation, human rights abuses and weapons proliferation respect no borders, but cut across many disciplines. They cannot be solved unilaterally. They do, however, have a direct impact on us through the safety of our streets, the air we breathe, the quality of our lives.

No one is immune — we are all affected. The inescapable truth of our lives today is they are more connected than ever. We live in the age of the World Wide Web — far-off concerns, isolated from our own lives, are a thing of the past. And while globalization presents opportunities, it can also expose all