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Roundtable on Sudan

17 September 1998

Roundtable Report

ROUNDTABLE ON SUDAN

September 17, 1998

-Rapporteur's Report-

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The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFD) organized a roundtable on the topic of Sudan on 17 September 1998. The purpose of the roundtable was to exchange information, discuss opinions, views, facts and outside government on events and factors in Sudan and to help inform the development of Canadian foreign policy on this matter. Participants represented a range of governmental, non-governmental and commercial interests, including DFAIT, CIDA, Oxfam, CARE Canada, Doctors without Borders, Project Plourhaïmes, Taberna, and C.P. Foods Industries Ltd. As the discussion was characterized by very divergent views about the conflict and the situation in Sudan, the recommendations which came out of the roundtable are at times contradictory. Nonetheless, there was consensus among the participants that Canada should build on its current involvement in Sudan through a strategy of constructive engagement.

The roundtable began with background presentations from DFAIT, CIDA, CARE and Taberna. Key issues raised during these presentations included the security situation in Sudan, Canadian economic interests and humanitarian and development strategies. As was highlighted in the DFAIT presentation, Canadian policy toward Sudan has been dominated by concerns for peace and stability in the Horn of Africa, the safety of Canadians in the region, the protection of Canadian economic interests and, especially, human rights abuses and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. These concerns reflect the guiding principles of Canadian foreign policy of security, prosperity and the protection of human rights.