

Moreover, Saudi Arabia shares with Canada and with other members of the allied coalition, a commonality of interests in supporting the UN Security Council resolutions and in strengthening regional security arrangements. It is currently working closely with other states in the region, and with members of the coalition, to develop appropriate regional security arrangements for the post-conflict period. These efforts are fully supported by Canada.

The requirement to control exports of military goods, including automatic firearms, is clear and obvious. The Export and Import Permits Act provides the Government with the necessary means to do so. Enforcement of controls requires vigilance, good intelligence and close international co-operation. It also requires the support of exporters and clear licensing guidelines. The 1977 amendments to the Criminal Code place unnecessary restrictions on Canadian companies established to support Canada's defence requirements. Our NATO allies can export automatic firearms to Canadian Forces, but Canadian firms cannot export to meet their requirements for the same goods.

Adoption of the proposed amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code are necessary and pertain only to automatic firearms. The amendments do not pertain to other military equipment, nor do they alter Canada's long-standing policy on stringently controlling exports of military goods.

The new, additional and strict controls on exports of automatic firearms were developed to meet a specific and limited requirement of the Canadian defence industry. Increased flexibility in certain areas is being created only with respect to a single category of military goods, namely automatic firearms. Other export controls remain in place. Adoption of the Automatic Firearms Country Control List and limiting exports of automatic weapons to our NATO allies and close defence partners, to those countries with which we have bilateral defence research, development and production agreements, will help ensure that Canadian manufacturers of automatic weapons and equipment with automatic firearms remain viable. They will also ensure that Canadian controls on such goods remain the most stringent in the world.

These exacting Canadian controls reflect the Government's commitment to arms control. They are fully consistent with recent Canadian arms control initiatives, including the proposal to hold a world summit on the instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction. They are also consistent with the program of action on conventional weapons.

Canada's concern is the build-up by certain countries of levels of armaments in excess of legitimate self-defence requirements. Certainly no permit would ever be approved to export automatic weapons from Canada to a country which undertook such a massive