

CAI EA752 99R29

REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON
CANADA, NATO AND THE UNITED NATIONS:
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE KOSOVO CRISIS

Ottawa
October 1, 1999

On October 1, 1999, the Human Rights Centre at the University of
Ottawa in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs
hosted a one-day roundtable on the implications of
the Kosovo crisis for Canada, NATO and the United Nations. A
wide range of international relations and legal experts, academics, government officials, NGOs and students
attended. The proceedings were broadcast by CTV.

**REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON
CANADA, NATO AND THE UNITED NATIONS:
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE KOSOVO CRISIS**

**October 1, 1999
Ottawa**

1. **Thinking about the Kosovo intervention**

John Polanyi, Nobel Laureate, University of Toronto, opened the discussion by pondering
the moral aspects of NATO's intervention in Kosovo. He went on to say that concern about
the fate of human beings does not stop at our borders. We must extend our commitments and
responsibilities abroad and strive to strengthen the rule of law everywhere. While some may
argue that the intervention in Kosovo actually weakened the rule of law, it did receive moral
backing within the international community. Lacking was the institutional
approval/legitimation of the action by the UN Security Council. Nevertheless, what would the
consequences of inaction be?

John Polanyi further pointed out that the Kosovo intervention brings to focus several
other questions. What are the criteria for intervention? How to achieve desired ends and at what
cost? Kosovo made the case that a
are limits to governments' actions
absolute. There is no law that
government. There is no doubt that
perpetrated against the Kosovo
ways have to be found to address
comprehended to go on the ground
domestic policing, but that had
control resources towards
ambiguous attitudes with

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

NOV 10 2000

Return to Departmental Library
Retourner à la bibliothèque du Ministère