

**REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON AFGHANISTAN:
GOVERNANCE SCENARIOS AND CANADIAN POLICY OPTIONS**

12 October, 2001

Ottawa, Ontario

*At the request of the Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific, David Mulroney, and in partnership with the South Asia Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development organised a roundtable on **Afghanistan: Governance Scenarios and Canadian Policy Options** (October 12, 2001). Area specialists, experts, NGO leaders, members of the Afghan community in Canada and government officials shared insights about building workable, legitimate and sustainable governance in a post-Taliban Afghanistan and Canadian policy options. Prince Mostapha Zaher joined the roundtable by phone from Rome. Other participants included Gwynne Dyer (Military Historian and Commentator), Steven Ratner (University of Texas), Adeena Niazi (Afghan Women's Organisation), Annette Ittig (Consultant), Dan Ouimet (Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs), Patricia Marsden-Dole (Director General, South and Southeast Asia Bureau) and Pauline Kehoe (Pakistan and Afghanistan Division, Canadian International Development Agency). Steven Lee (Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development) chaired the meeting.*

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed all to the roundtable, thanked Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley for the hospitality today, and set three closely related goals for the day:

1. To share information and insights.
2. To think about governance scenarios in a post-Taliban Afghanistan, focussing on needs and capacity.
3. To think about how Canada and Canadians can best appropriately contribute to these governance needs.

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Participants were encouraged to think about an inventory of possible Canadian measures for the longer-term reconstruction of Afghanistan while the window to do so remains open. What are the most desirable outcomes, given the lessons of history regarding not only Afghanistan itself but failed states in general? Are there templates available to help create a legitimate and sustainable post-Taliban government? What role should Canada play?

This report is divided into five sections:

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Failed States and Governance: Lessons Learned
4. Scenarios and Recommendations for Achieving Peace and Building Good Governance in Afghanistan