
- **Conventional Weapons**

- **Strengthening controls:** A pressing problem is the excessive accumulation of conventional armaments by many states. The widespread and indiscriminate use of landmines, with attendant horrors for innocent civilians, is a serious challenge, especially in insurgencies. We are working with other countries to strengthen the relevant international convention. We continue to attach great importance to the UN Conventional Arms Registry, and will press other UN member states to make use of it. Canadian leadership in this area is demonstrated by our controls on the export of military goods, which are among the most restrictive of Western countries. These controls deny export permits when, among other reasons, the goods are destined to a country where they may be used to abuse human rights or where there are actual or imminent hostilities. We are also studying ways that conventional weapons proliferation can be addressed more effectively by the international community.

- **Arms and Development**

- **Encouraging more productive spending:** The Government is concerned over the continued imbalance in much of the developing world between spending on armaments and spending on human development, and will continue to use all means at our disposal to promote the call in the UN Charter's Article 26 for "the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources," especially in developing countries where scarce resources are so urgently needed to relieve suffering and to promote employment and growth. In particular, Canada will seek concerted action with others to influence governments which spend large sums on arms rather than on education and housing for their people. To that end, the Government will offer support for demobilization of military personnel, as well as training for civilian roles such as police activities, in order to assist societies which are committed to reducing military spending and reconstructing civil society.