

REPORT FROM THE HALIFAX ROUNDTABLE:  
DEMOCRATISATION IN THE AMERICAS

July 9, 1999

Halifax

On July 9, 1999, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, with the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie University, hosted a roundtable in Halifax on 'Democratisation in the Americas' as well as some NGOs, including Amnesty International, to discuss opportunities and challenges for Canadian policy options. The meeting was a public discussion begun in Calgary (March 17, 1999). That meeting included a wide range of NGO, labor and business representatives as well as academics and students. It was focused on discussing the broad issues that the participants felt deserve attention by Canadian policymakers. Promoting democracy in the Americas surfaced as one of the key policy issues and one of the prerequisites to the success of other objectives. The Halifax meeting was a response to that recommendation.

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1. Starting the Discussion

The welcome was extended by Ted Soper, the director of the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie University. He mentioned the continuing challenges before the Centre and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, including the need for development of Canadian foreign policy in becoming more interesting to new actors. Participants included an getting involved in the process. There has been a large increase in the number of people who work years on a variety of issues. The network of people who work on foreign policy development seems to be growing internationally. The Centre in Great Britain shows...

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Following Ted Soper's remarks, the Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CFPD) was introduced by the National Director of the Centre. The Centre's role is to help Canadians outside of government to help shape Canadian foreign policy. This roundtable is part of a two-year process of Canadian foreign policy development in the Americas, it is a part of a two-year process of Canadian foreign policy development in the Hemisphere, leading up to the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001). It is also a continuation of a public discussion started in Calgary in March (March 17, 1999). The CFPD's

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