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Inter-Departmental Meeting on a
Canadian Initiative to Deal with Small Arms

November 1997

Researcher's Report

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SUMMARY

**CANADIAN INITIATIVE TO
DEAL WITH SMALL ARMS
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Foreign Policy Development**

The issue of small arms is multifaceted and has become a global concern. It is a complex issue that requires a coordinated effort from all levels of government, as well as regional and international organizations. The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development is pleased to have been invited to participate in this initiative. This report provides a summary of the findings of the research conducted for this project.

INTRODUCTION

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 1997, the Minister of Foreign Affairs indicated a need to attend to cross-cutting issues as part of a larger effort to contend with international terrorism and the development of human security. The Minister identified small arms as one such cross-cutting issue of greater focus and a more pervasive Canadian contribution. Representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Defence, Justice, the RCMP and the Canadian International Development Agency met to discuss the status of and current responses to the small arms issue as well as to identify areas for further initiatives, objectives and policy options. This report summarizes these discussions.

1. FRAMING THE ISSUE

The complexity and breadth of the small arms issue are well appreciated. The issue has received considerable attention in policy-oriented think-pieces and is more often discussed in inter-governmental, non-governmental and academic circles. Several elements of the issue that stem from these dialogues and are recognized as key areas for developing a Canadian initiative.

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