

argument for more substantial intergovernmental contact between Canada and Kazakhstan.

In the realm of political assistance, although the American experience would suggest that a low profile is desirable, Canada has substantial expertise in a number of problems of crucial importance to Kazakhstan's political development. Notably, Canada has a considerable track record and expertise in the design of political institutions to deal with interethnic relations in multicultural societies. This is a high priority of the Kazakh leadership for reasons amply discussed above.<sup>47</sup>

In the realm of high policy, although Canada can do little to affect the immediate conditions faced by Kazakh national security decision makers, as part of multilateral efforts, Canada can make a difference in the pursuit of a fundamental objective of policy towards the CIS — ensuring the extension of the non-proliferation regime and the exit of nuclear weapons from the non-Russian republics of the former Soviet Union. In addition, through participation in efforts to strengthen and further define the security and peacekeeping role of the CSCE and the United Nations in the former Soviet Union, Canada can contribute to the dilution of Russian preponderance in the national security affairs of the non-Russian former Soviet states, including Kazakhstan.

Canada's capacity to pursue these economic and security objectives is currently seriously constrained by the minimal character of its diplomatic presence in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, and by the concentration of technical assistance programming on Ukraine, the Baltics, and Russia.

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<sup>47</sup> In this vein, it is noteworthy that President Nazarbaev has called for the establishment of a Council on Citizens' Rights with primary responsibility for drafting laws concerning the incitement of ethnic tension.