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# REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

Toronto, October 19, 1999

On October 19, 1999, the Canadian Council for Foreign Policy Development, in partnership with the Global and Human Rights Bureau and the International Affairs Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, organized a roundtable on Conflict Prevention. The roundtable brought together representatives from government, academia, and the private sector. The roundtable was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on October 19, 1999.

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The Structure of the Roundtable

The Participants

The reason for the emergence of Conflict Prevention as an urgent foreign policy topic is the failure of Collective Security, according to Andrew Mack, Director of the Strategic Planning Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary General of the UN, who opened the discussion. What and where are the tools to prevent conflict today?

- Regional organizations, perhaps with the exception of NATO, do not have the capacity.
- The UN.

There are several barriers to effective Conflict Prevention activities at the UN.

There is a division of labour/expertise problem. For instance, there is no "lessons learned" unit. The Special Reporters of the Secretary General (SRSGs) often lack knowledge of the countries and areas of responsibility. Another problem was a conflict has erupted rather than being appointed SRSGs before a "potential" Department of Political Affairs is to handle human rights and accountability to good Effective Conflict Prevention by the domestic of those governments that are measures (member states).

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