

Canada and Norway can co-operate by possibly spearheading efforts to expand satellite communications to northern communities in an effort to provide e-mail, telephone and other electronic communication services. Also, Canada and Norway could push for increased scientific funding as increased financing for circumpolar projects is seen as vital to the success of northern foreign policy. On education, Canada and Norway can help lead the creation of a university of the Arctic and better education in the region.

From the fax machine to the World Wide Web, the invention of information technology has vastly expanded the ability of governments and civil society alike to communicate and organise. NGOs campaigning against landmines and the MAI have acknowledged that e-mail was an invaluable communications tool allowing the rapid transfer of information around the globe. NGOs, universities and governments continue to expand the use of the world wide web, by setting up sites promoting culture, peace and education. UNESCO has created the virtual "University of Peace" to promote peace and understanding through the medium of education.

Particular mention was made of the role of the fax machine in Tiannemen Square, e-mail on the International Criminal Court and the MAI and the ability of NGOs to lead through data sharing and presentation, while governments trying to catch-up to the level of these communications are often constrained by security issues. A presentation was also made on the IDRC's partnership agenda on new technology. The trend for the future is for inter-activity, which can be applied to foreign policy interests like creating a culture of peace, new virtual international universities, and greater public participation in public policy. Discussion on new technology also included comments about access, particularly in the South, the continuing value of radio, the Minister's interests in addressing cyber-hate, Austria's concerns about child pornography, and the January 1999 UNESCO conference on that subject and the value of including these subjects in the Canada-Norway partnership. In this respect, areas of greater co-operation between Canada and Norway include increased access to the internet for lesser developed countries and a collective policy on governing the internet and content on the WWW. Two other participants participated in the discussion by telephone and expressed the hope that they could contribute to the next meeting on the Canada-Norway partnership.

Concluding remarks were framed in the context of the Enlightenment and common Canadian-Norwegian traditions. It was noted that Canadian foreign policy and our preference for conflict mediation is a part of our heritage, developed in part from our unique relationships with Britain and the United States. Attention was drawn to the 1774 petition by Nova Scotians to Britain fearing a threat to their security by being caught in an American-British conflict. They asked, "Is it permissible to live in a peaceable state?" Their attempt to establish an active neutral model in international affairs at a time of international crisis and their commitment to good governance, peacebuilding and conflict resolution are experiences we can build on today. Since 1776, Canadians have gained experience as war refugees and victims of political and ethnic conflict. In this respect, there is a need for the Canadian public to better understand our own history and country as the public plays a larger role in foreign policy. The discussion that followed generated the recommendation that Canadian studies in Norway could be strengthened as part of the Canada-Norway relationship.