



November 26, 1996

On November 15th the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development hosted a consultation on Canada-China relations. The purpose of the consultation was to provide Minister Axworthy with input on the way forward for Canada on how best to promote political stability, security and respect for human rights in China.

Participants were invited from across Canada and included academics, representatives of APEC, the business community of Chinese Canadian community, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Steven Lee. The remainder of the consultation was devoted to providing useful policy information.

CANADA-CHINA RELATIONS
-Consultation Summary-
November 1996
Canadian Centre for
Foreign Policy Development

The following views were expressed:

Political Stability
Canadian policy on institution building in China should focus on educating the judiciary and training Chinese corporations and individuals in Canadian business skills and best practices.

Special attention should be given to engaging key people and groups in outlying provinces. Where possible, information technologies should form an integral part of Canada's institution building efforts.

Human Rights
At every opportunity, the Canadian government should present lists of detained dissidents to Chinese authorities. In addition, the government should monitor and report on the Chinese government's violation of its own legal procedures, especially in light of the new legal code.

To improve respect for human rights, the government should work with business to form a code of ethics for Canadian companies. The code should be made available to all Canadians doing commercial activity abroad.

Security
Considering the important role that the PLA will play in the formation of the post-Deng government, CCFPD's mandate to directly engage the PLA in track two dialogues within APEC, ASEM, and NATO and should engage the PLA in Canadian civil control of military and other relevant operations as a demilitarizing development, confidence building and government-to-government effort.

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