

Introduction

We are pleased to present the following report on the consultation meeting which took place on March 24, 1997, at the University College of The Fraser Valley. The meeting focused on policy issues relevant to the various international peacebuilding initiatives in which Canada is or may become involved. The consultation was the first one, among the many others that have taken place across Canada on the same subject during the last twelve months, which specifically focused on the criminal justice issues that are always likely to arise within such initiatives, particularly in post-conflict situations. The consultation meeting was also different from many others in that it was designed specifically to encourage the participation of college and university students.

The forum was organized jointly by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice of the University College of The Fraser Valley (Abbotsford, B.C.) and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy. Invitations to participate in the forum were sent to students from departments of political sciences, law, criminology, or international studies, from the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, Camosun College, the University College of The Fraser Valley, Douglas College, and Malaspina University College.

Participants received, in advance of the meeting: an agenda; a consultation document ("*Peacebuilding and Criminal Justice - Assisting Transitions From Power to Authority*", by Yvon Dandurand) which had been prepared in order to facilitate discussions (see: *Annex II*); and, a "List of Questions for Discussions on Thematic Issues" (see.: *Annex III*). Most participants obtained direct access to the documentation through a computer web-site created especially for that purpose. Finally participants also had access to a briefing paper on "*Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Reconstruction - Defining Peacebuilding*" prepared by Necla Tschirgi, International Development Research Centre, for the DFAIT Peacebuilding Consultation, Ottawa, February 1997.

The consultation meeting was a success, in spite of the fact that the project's short time-frame did not allow the student coordinating committee to recruit as