



Special Tasks 1996-97

There have been special start-up tasks this year. Identifying people across Canada with an interest, or potential interest, in contributing to foreign policy making has been a priority. That priority includes the assessment of the capacity of individuals and institutions to make policy relevant contributions to foreign policy making now and in the future.

These efforts included cross-Canada discussions with university experts and researchers to explore how they might add policy options value to their academic research work. Roundtables with NGO activists at the community level explored how they might add policy options value to their program and advocacy work. These discussions also promoted collaboration among experts and academics and between universities and NGOs. These discussions have resulted in the creation of a network of policy development contact people and groups across Canada. These groups generated and hosted a number of policy development projects during the year.

Building the web site has been another special start-up task. The web site is being designed to provide policy development information, links to other foreign policy

sites, youth education (capacity building in the next generation), and policy development conferencing (starting in French with francophone universities and NGOs in three provinces). Working with Media Awareness Network, senior high school courses are being designed on Peacebuilding and on Canada-US culture and sovereignty issues.

A special start-up task has been to establish regular input and feedback with various branches of the Department in order to contribute public views to policy making and inform citizens about the results of their work and continuing policy development information. A consultation, comment and feedback system is now in place across the Department and a working partnership established with the Policy Planning Staff. The Minister, and Deputy Minister, Gordon Smith, signalled the Department's commitment to building this working relationship in a joint letter to all employees and embassies in December 1996.

Feedback and communications include our regular newsletter (3,000), web site information, brochure, and published policy options results in cooperation with "Canadian Foreign Policy" (Ottawa) and "Etudes Internationales" (Québec) and our own Reports and Occasional Papers.

Outreach Meetings 1996-97

- Universities Outreach Roundtables: Memorial, Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, P.E.I., New Brunswick, Laval, Sherbrooke, Montreal, UQAM, Carleton, Toronto, York, McMaster, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Calgary, Alberta, U.B.C., Victoria, 1996 - 1997
- Canadian Council for International Business, International Affairs Committee, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, March 26, 1997
- Privy Council Office, March 6, 1997
- National Democratic Institute, February 27, 1997
- House of Commons Committee Clerks (Foreign Affairs, Human Rights), Parliamentary Centre, Library of Parliament, February 25, 1997
- Executive Committee (Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs, Assistant DMs and Department Directors), February 24, 1997
- International Council for Canadian Studies and "Friends of Canadian Studies" February 19, 1997
- Canadian Council for International Cooperation, February 18, 1997
- Bill Graham, M.P., John English, M.P. Chairs, House of Commons Committees (Foreign Affairs, Human Rights sub-Committee), February 14, 1997
- President and staff, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, February 13, 1997
- Presidents/Directors North-South Institute, January 30, 1997
- Canadian Labour Congress, January 14, 1997
- CIIA, July 2, 1996
- FOCAL, June 28, 1996
- United Nations Association, April 1, 1996
- National Committee and Vancouver Committee APEC Peoples Summit, January 17, 1997
- CIDA Policy Branch, October 18, 1996
- Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, October 11, 1996

