

Canada will seek concerted action with others to influence governments which spend large sums on arms rather than on education and housing for their people.

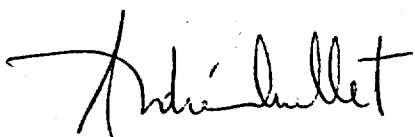
This review of foreign policy does not represent an end. Rather, it is the beginning of an on-going process.

In the future, the Government will conduct annually a National Forum on Canada's International Relations, keeping in mind the helpful suggestions that the Committee has made. Based on the model of its regular consultations with the business community through the ITAC and SAGIT processes and with partners in the NGO/human rights community, the Government will expand and institutionalize this process by establishing a series of active consultations with other groups and individuals interested in the international dimensions of economic relations, development and political affairs. The Government has also decided to create a mechanism within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to stimulate public consultations and research on foreign policy issues.

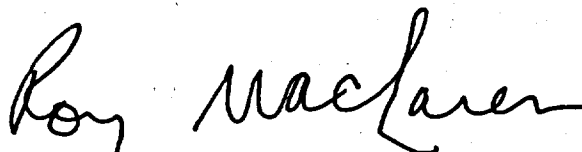
The Government will continue to consult Parliament regularly, through special debates and other means, when major foreign policy issues arise, and for advice in updating the directions of our foreign policy. The Government looks to the relevant Standing Committees to open channels of public consultation. In keeping with the Committee's suggestion, we would be pleased to schedule informal consultations between ourselves and the relevant Parliamentary Committees.

In closing, we would like again to thank the members of the Special Joint Committee for their exceptional contribution to the development of our foreign policy and in helping to ensure that this policy is one which Canadians can be proud of.

Yours sincerely,



Honourable André Ouellet
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Honourable Roy MacLaren
Minister for International Trade

c.c. Members of the Special Joint Committee reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy

Attachments (a/ Government Response to the Recommendations of the Special Joint Committee reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy b/*Foreign Policy Statement*)