

FOREWORD

1. The Government believes Canadians hold strong views about the role which their country plays internationally. They want Canada to maintain a series of defence obligations, most notably in the NATO alliance and within NORAD; they want Canada to participate in peacekeeping missions; they want Canada to work towards the maintenance of international order and stability and to maintain a strong stand against human rights abuses. All of these elements were weighed in the process which resulted in the 1986 Export Controls Policy announced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.
2. The 1986 Export Controls Policy guidelines clearly states that Canada would closely control the export of military goods and technology to:
 - a) countries which pose a threat to Canada and its allies;
 - b) countries involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities;
 - c) countries under United Nations Security Council sanctions; and
 - d) countries whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.
3. Every application to export military goods or technology to countries that are not NATO allies or close defence partners is reviewed on a case-by-case basis by officials in External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) in consultation with officials from the Department of National Defence and from Industry, Science and Technology. Review by the Secretary of State for External Affairs is required for applications to export military goods and technology in all cases governed by the above guidelines. In addition, to ensure that the Government is as prudent as possible, all applications for the export of military goods and technology considered to be in an "offensive" category to any country that is not a NATO ally or a close defence partner are assessed and referred to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for decision.
4. As a complement to its national Export Controls Policy, Canada has been pursuing increased international transparency, consultation and restraint in arms transfers and procurement. Our aim is not to prevent countries from acquiring the weapons necessary for reasonable defence purposes. It is rather to prevent the development of arsenals that exceed reasonable defence requirements, particularly in areas of tension.
5. In part as a result of a Canadian initiative, a number of multilateral fora -- including the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of