

National Forum in Vancouver, British Columbia January 28-29, 1999

Recommendations on the United Nations and Civil Society

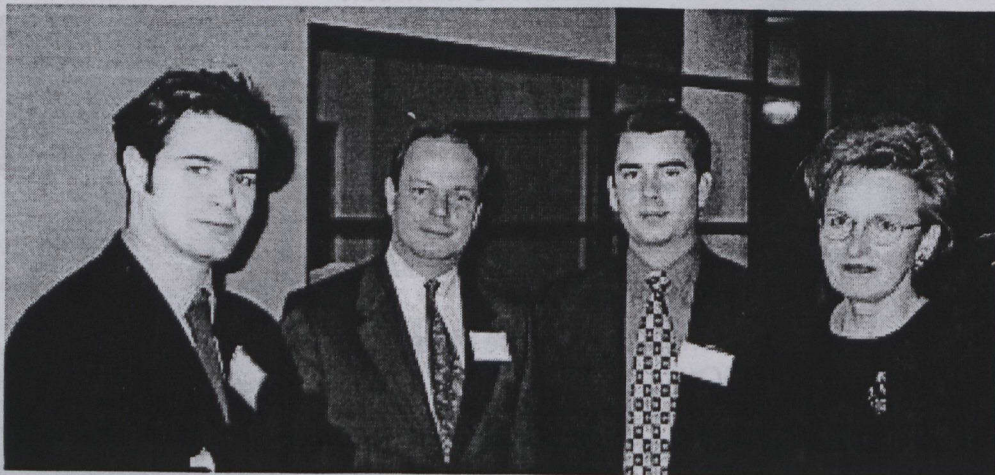
1. The federal government should take a long-term view of the Security Council and lay the ground-work for a long-term reform of the Council.
2. Canada's UN activities should prioritize the alleviation of poverty as well as food and water insecurity for citizens in developing countries.
3. Canada should recognize the important role and knowledge of NGOs and remove barriers to their participation and cooperation in the UN. Canada should set the example by developing and enhancing its relationships with NGOs and try to introduce similar measures, such as regular meetings with NGOs in the Security Council.
4. Canada should advocate a public awareness program using information technology, existing media, and new technologies to communicate the work of the UN and Security Council with youth and the public (including minorities and women). Canada should create UN youth internships, support youth Model UN projects and UN awareness programs, and opportunities for youth to participate in low-risk Canadian International Development Agency projects. The role of the UN should also be integrated into high school curricula.

Recommendations on Sanctions and Peace building

1. Canada should educate its citizens about the role of the UN in building peace and development.
2. Canada should emphasize a greater use of early-warning mechanisms and preventative diplomacy in the Security Council to avoid knee-jerk reactions.
3. Canada should seek to form partnerships with like-minded member states of the Security Council in order to pursue its goals for change.

Recommendations for items on the Security Council agenda

1. Abolish nuclear weapons.
2. Ban the production and export of small arms.
3. Put a human face on the impact of sanctions.
4. Examine Security Council relations with regional bodies such as NATO.
5. Review the issues around the US Helms-Burton Act against Cuba.
6. Use dialogue and incentives before resorting to sanctions. Review the consistency, fairness and legality of sanctions, particularly in Iraq.
7. Widen the Security Council agenda to include human security and Peace building issues.
8. Protect humanitarian aid workers.



l-r :Mark Leonard (Foreign Policy Center), Steve Lee, Yannick Lamonde, Diane Marleau