

**SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE:
THE IMPACT OF SEPTEMBER 11 ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY¹**

November 27, 2001

Ottawa, Ontario

At the request of the Assistant Deputy Minister for Communications, Culture and Policy Planning, John Higginbotham, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) organised and hosted a group of 13 Canadians, senior policy makers and Ministers' staff to reflect on Canadian foreign policy and on international relations post September 11. Participants included John Polanyi (University of Toronto), Janice Stein (Munk Centre for International Studies), Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire, Bob Rae (Goodman Philips & Vineberg) Joe Schlesinger (CBC) and John English (University of Waterloo). Steven Lee (Executive Director, CCFPD) chaired the meeting.

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed all to the roundtable. He reminded the participants that the mandate of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development is to help Canadians contribute to foreign policy making. He noted that this was an unusual meeting because participants were being asked to address international relations writ large and the whole of Canadian foreign policy, rather than a specific policy development issue. He posed some framework questions, including: Do Canadians have interests in the world? What are they? Are they changing? Do we have permanent friends and allies or do we live in the world of flexible coalitions and partnerships of convenience? How do we assess old relationships and New Diplomacy? Are the three pillars of foreign policy still intact and still a useful way to see our interests? Participants were asked to think about threats (both military and other), influence (and for what purposes) and "making a difference." They were also encouraged to think about big trends at play: migration, modernisation, urbanisation, values shifts, distribution of wealth and power, evolving global norms and institutions, economic growth, recession, trade and investment.

The importance of both long term thinking and public contribution to policy making was emphasised by government officials. While policy makers are facing a world changed by the September 11 events, they continue to pursue Canadian long-standing commitments (i.e., negotiations on climate change and trade) and to maintain bilateral relations with other countries. September 11 has altered the framework of the Canada - U.S. relationship (including border management and cooperation at the multilateral level) and affected the agenda for the upcoming

¹Chatham Rules were applied throughout the discussion, the results of which will be circulated and used for further consultations inside and outside the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

