

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 Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

2. At the time Mr. Clark stated 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. A standard review process was established for proposed exports of offensive military equipment to any country, except NATO and a handful of other countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland). In the case of non-offensive equipment, Ministerial review is undertaken if the country is engaged in hostilities, has a record of human rights abuse, is under United Nations sanctions or is deemed to be a threat to Canada or its allies.

4. Whether the goods proposed for export are offensive or non-offensive, Ministerial review, if required, is only undertaken after a standard review process is completed with Department of National Defence, Industry, Science and Technology Canada and within several divisions of External Affairs and International Trade Canada including the Human Rights Division.

5. Canada has long been a leading proponent of measures to deal effectively with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and has advocated restraint and effective controls on the export of conventional weapons. It is in that context that on February 8, 1991 the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney and the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced a Proposal for a World Summit under United Nations auspices on the Instruments of War and Weapons of Mass