

Meeting the Challenge

"The threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery—is complex and global, undermining both Canadian national security and global stability."

—Canadian Security Intelligence Service: 2003 Public Report.

The magnitude and scope of the Cold War WMD legacy in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU) dictated the need for a truly multilateral and cooperative solution. Initiatives from the international community in the early 1990s, led by U.S. Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, set the stage for more concerted action. The U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction program, launched in 1991, now includes programs implemented by the Defense, Energy and State departments and other agencies and responds to a full range of proliferation concerns. Approximately US\$7.9 billion was directed by the U.S. over a 12-year period to help Russia and other former Soviet states reduce the risk posed by their WMD stockpiles.

Canada was also active multilaterally during the 1990s to address chemical, biological and nuclear WMD concerns through a number of international instruments and organizations. These included, for example, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC),



Photo Credit: Office of Senator Lugar

During a visit to the chemical weapons depository at Shchuch'ye, Russia in December 2000, Senator Lugar demonstrates the proliferation risk by placing an 85mm chemical shell into an ordinary briefcase

the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Although considerable progress had been made, there remained a need for a methodical and committed approach to the risks posed by vulnerable WMD, principally in Russia and other FSU countries. It fell on the G8 countries to take the lead and provide the framework and political support for a new, coordinated threat reduction initiative.

Under Canada's leadership, the *G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*² was launched at the Kananaskis meeting of G8 leaders in June 2002. The G8 agreed to contribute up to US\$20 billion over a 10-year period for projects to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counterterrorism and nuclear safety issues. The initial geographic focus for *Global Partnership* initiatives was Russia. However, the G8 also indicated a willingness to enter into negotiations with other countries, particularly those of the former Soviet Union, for inclusion in the *Partnership*.

"We must anticipate that terrorists will use weapons of mass destruction if allowed the opportunity. The minimum standard for victory in this war is the prevention of any terrorist cell from obtaining weapons or materials of mass destruction. We must make certain that all sources of WMD are identified and systematically guarded or destroyed."

—The Lugar Survey on Proliferation Threats and Responses, June 2005.

"... all countries face new and diverse challenges. Terrorists have harnessed the modern tools of globalization and exploited our open societies with devastating effect."

—Canada's International Policy Statement: A Role of Pride and Influence in the World, April 2005.

² Also referred to as the "Global Partnership" or "Partnership."