

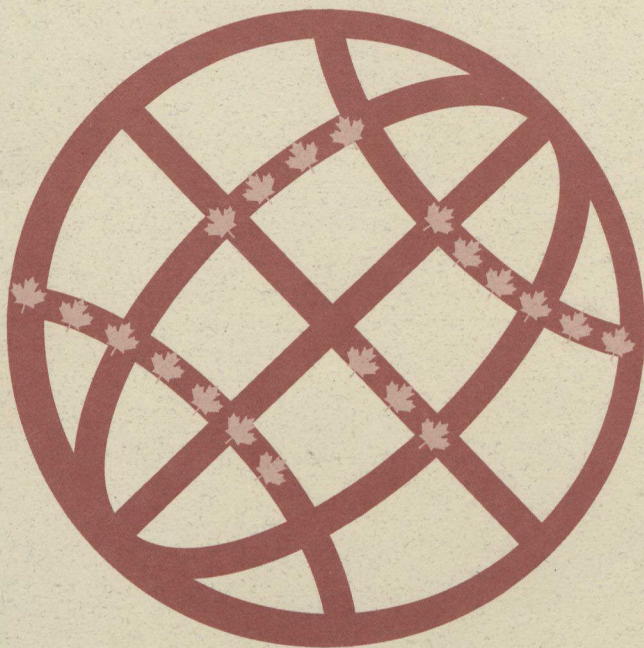
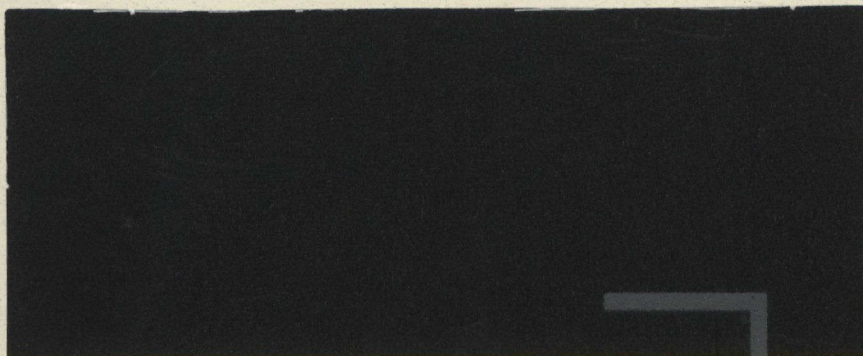
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Canadian Centre  
For Foreign Policy  
Development



Centre Canadien  
pour le développement  
de la politique étrangère

# Policy Options





Dept. of Foreign Affairs  
Min. des Affaires étrangères

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**BALKANS ROUNDTABLE**  
**March 31, 1998**

18035236



## MEMORANDUM

Date: 24 April 1998

To: The Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., M.P.  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

From: Steve Lee, National Director  
Centre for Foreign Policy Development

Subject: Summary Report, "Balkans Roundtable," 31 March 1998

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Several important issues were raised at the roundtable, which focused in particular on Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. These issues include the following:

- international responsibilities: foreign investment, military intervention, sanctions, need for a global policy
- refugees and unprotected human rights: cultural, educational, political
- incomplete democratic and market economic transitions in the region: underdeveloped civil societies, poor infrastructures, absence of or weak institutions such as free media, free and fair multi-party elections, rule of law
- expectations of continued political and social instability in the region, continuation of nationalist perspectives, and poor economic performance.

Policy options which emerged:

1. Promotion of civil society development
  - establish grant programs that are linked to specific elements of civil society development (NGOs that are multi-ethnic)
  - focus on non-nationalist interests, such as gender-based or environmental NGOs
  - widen focus to include regional centres and not just capital cities
2. Capacity-building and institutional development
  - university contacts and other exchanges
  - computer and technological assistance
3. Long-term monitoring missions to continually evaluate the situation on the ground



4. Need for a reduction of military component of policies towards the region and re-focus on non-military involvement
5. Greater promotion of Canada's multicultural experience

The following specific presentations were made:

Robert Austin

- problems remain in Albania regarding the conduct of free and fair elections, human rights violations, lack of a constitution, a weak respect for the rule of law and the absence of a free press;
- the lack of tolerance in the region means that nationalist sentiments in other Balkan countries are aggravated by the presence of Albanian refugees;
- Kosovo is a significant weathervane for the Balkan region;
- solution is not necessarily autonomy for Kosovo within Serbia but incremental growth of human rights, beginning with educational and cultural rights, and dealing with political rights at a later time

Reneo Lukic

- political landscape in Yugoslavia unlikely to change with Slobodan Milosevic continuing to dominate Yugoslav politics on the national level and opposition groups dominating at the municipal level
- there is a danger of major war and ethnic cleansing

Emile Vlajki

- events in Bosnia and in the former Yugoslavia are part of a modernisation process
- given the limitations of the Cold War solution of military intervention, it must be combined with "carrots", such as massive foreign investment and globalisation of entire region
- implementation of Dayton will take place over generations

John Polanyi

- the civilised debates which take place within science can be exported to other situations, especially where there is a need for democratised discourse
- within science there can be found great believers in soft power
- scientists must be part of the political debate because they understand what sort of a world is viable and desirable







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125 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

## AGENDA

Balkans Roundtable  
March 31, 1998  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa  
room A8-126  
9:00 - 15:00

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 - 9:15   | Welcome from the chair / Roundtable introductions       |
| 9:15 - 9:45   | Presentation - John Polanyi (Science and Civil Society) |
| 9:45 - 10:15  | Presentation - Emil Vlajki (Bosnia)                     |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Break / Coffee  |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Presentation - Reneo Lukic (Macedonia and Yugoslavia)   |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Presentation - Robert Austin (Albania and Kosovo)       |
| 11:30 - 11:45 | Comments  |
| 11:45 - 12:15 | Break and Lunch   |
| 12:15 - 13:00 | Discussions   |
| 13:00 - 15:00 | Policy Options for Canada                               |
| 15:00         | Concluding Comments                                     |





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125 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

### List of participants

Balkans Roundtable  
March 31, 1998  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa  
room A8-126  
9:00 - 15:00

Steve Lee  
National Director  
Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy  
Development

Yannick Lamonde  
Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy  
Development

Arif Lalani  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Guy Archambault  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Steve Wallace  
CIDA

John Frazer  
Former Ambassador

John Polanyi  
University of Toronto

Robert Austin  
Titan Group for Policy Analysis and  
University of Toronto

Glenys Babcock  
Titan Group for Policy Analysis

Reneo Lukic  
Laval University

Emil Vlajki  
Laval University

Mihailo Crnobrnja  
McGill University

Leonard Cohen  
Simon Fraser University

Barry Smith  
Queens University

Kate White  
Red Cross

Gerry Robinson  
OSCE

Lynn Hunter  
Lynn Hunter and Associates

Jonas Rolatt  
NDI - Washington

Stephane Gobeil  
Université du Québec à Montréal

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