

Hot Button Issues in Canadian Foreign Policy since September 11, 2001

Group of 78 Annual Policy Conference 2002 21st Annual Policy Conference

Recommendations and Statements

September 27 - 29, 2002

Econiche House: 32 River Road, Cantley, Quebec J8Y 3A1

Conference Chair: Peggy Mason

Rapporteurs: Tim Creery, Arch MacKenzie

Iraq

The Canadian government should consider the participation of Canadian forces in military action against Iraq only if such action is authorized by the United Nations.

On Prime Minister Chrétien's remarks and global issues

The Group of 78 supports Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's statements pointing to poverty and powerlessness among the younger population of the Third World as being among the causes of terrorism. The Group welcomes his pledge to increase by eight per cent Canada's Official Direct Assistance (ODA), directed in particular to measures of poverty-reduction and human rights.

Valuable UN conferences

The Group of 78 further welcomes the raising of public awareness of global issues through the staging of United Nations conferences, and through the thorough airing of these issues in Canadian and other media. While recognizing that the implementation of agreements reached at these conferences necessarily takes considerable time, the Group expresses disappointment at the measurably modest outcome of the UN conference on sustainable development. It calls for more sustained action by the Canadian government to implement the measures set out in Agenda 21 and in particular in the areas of renewable energy and

biodiversity, which received inadequate attention at Johannesburg.

Fairer trade with developing countries

The Group of 78 recommends the removal of subsidies by developed countries on products also produced by developing countries, removal of quotas on the import of such products, and the immediate ending of subsidized exports of such products by developed countries, with transitional fiscal measures to compensate producers in developed countries harmed by such measures.

Monitoring foreign aid -- by the recipients

The Group also welcomes the emerging mechanism by which independent monitoring groups in recipient countries (such as in Tanzania and Rwanda) compile regular reports on the performance of donor countries, particularly the co-ordination of their efforts.