

FOREIGN AFFAIRS CANADA

Policy Position Paper

Topic: Geopolitics and Global Demographics

Name of University: Lakehead University

Name of Course: Security and Conflict Resolution

Name of Professor: Dr. Islam

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Summary of Group Discussion:

Issues Identified:

In order to guarantee Canadian capability in the global sphere, Canadian policies must be conscious of the following crucial issues:

- Proactive long term planning for population growth is needed
- Balance of the current economy
- Existence of weak border and immigration controls
- Investment in domestic and foreign markets
- Lack of proper immigrant population control
- There is a lack of population in rural areas contrasting with the amount of space available in rural areas
- Sustainability of modern technology and medicine in health care system

Areas of Consensus/Disagreement:

Consensus

- Growth will occur if current demographic trends continue
- Sustainability of the Canadian economy is based on a global economic perspective.
- Disease preventative and health promotion will be of increased importance in the coming years
- Exportation of technology thereby ensuring Canada's economic vitality in global markets
- That programs must be available for successful integration of immigrants to Canada
- Eradication of relative poverty that is created through urbanization and housing shortages

Disagreement

- Canada should act unilaterally in the trade negotiations.
- Immigration should be completely relied upon to sustain our population

- ❑ Lack of manufacturing facilities for natural resources - More manufacturing facilities are needed.
- ❑ Government enforcing coercive instruments in order to increase the birth rate

Responses to E-discussion Questions:

Shift in Balance of Power?

- ❑ The balance of power will once again become bi-polar with the rise of China's influence on South East Asia
- ❑ Canada will play a large role in absorbing their excess China's population, as Canada is a desirable destination for immigrants seeking asylum from oppressive regimes
- ❑ China will look to Canada as to how to integrate their own vast indigenous population, as Canada is quite experienced in this field

Energy Shortages?

- ❑ Conflicts will arise due to US demands for energy without a sustainable supply
- ❑ Canada has the highest uranium supply thus holding a potential power position.
- ❑ Canada will have to impose fair trade in order to make use of natural resource deposits

Canada –US Relations

- ❑ Will impact US- Canada relations slightly because the US will need to implement bilingual policies that reflect their population in addition to establishing a multicultural education curriculum
- ❑ Politics will not be significantly affected due to the fact that the white Anglo-Saxon population will continue to dominate the political spectrum
- ❑ Canada may become an advisee on language policies for the US

New Face of Canada Foreign Policy?

- ❑ Open markets to foreign investors especially those from China and Asia Pacific
- ❑ Implementation of multicultural, language policies, investment in public and private investments that reflect the increasing number of Asia-Pacific immigrants that will be entering Canada
- ❑ Redefine foreign policy to encompass both foreign and domestic investment

Policy recommendations

Societal

- ❑ Creating streamlined parental leave thereby encouraging fertility growth in Canada in order to combat population deficiencies
- ❑ Ensuring transferable education of people entering Canada in order to allow for immigrants to be a viable cog in the integral system of Canada

- ❑ Implement a national housing strategy that will guarantee immigrants as well as Canadian residents shelter thereby attempting to combat homelessness
- ❑ Increased community based health services for aboriginal, immigrants and the elderly
- ❑ Regional external cost benefit review of health care services
- ❑ National health based cooperative information integration system
- ❑ Implementation of increased services in health care and education in rural areas

Economic

- ❑ Refusal of United States National Missile Defense system due to the fact that such an economic expenditure is not vital to Canadian society
- ❑ Agreement to trading energy in order to ensure
- ❑ Promoting fair trade globally thereby ensuring that Canada will be an economic player in the future
- ❑ Sustainable production of energy
- ❑ Investment abroad in growing markets
- ❑ Investment in manufacturing facilities within Canada

Security

- ❑ Annual review of immigration screening process carried out by cross-cultural round table.
- ❑ Extend background requirement checks for potential immigrants
- ❑ Fortified borders in order to serve against unwanted people from entering or leaving Canada this can be done either through biometric security systems as well as increasing the number of guards in addition to arming guards
- ❑ Investigate further into the possibility of cooperation with the Russian global missile monitoring system (GMS)
- ❑ Refusal of United States National Missile Defense system, as it does not correlate with Canada's policy of Human Security. ie could disrupt delicate balance of power and spark more proliferation of weapons.