

The following letter was sent from the **Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada, to Senator Douglas Roche and Dr. William Epstein** in response to a letter written May 10, 2000 expressing concern regarding the US NMD system, noting that "Canada has not taken a position on National Missile Defence."

OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

May 31, 2000

Dear Senator Roche and Dr. Epstein:

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 2000 in which you express concern regarding the potential US deployment of a National Missile Defence system. As you are aware, the US itself has not taken a decision to proceed, and to this end, Canada has not taken a position on National Missile Defence.

The implications of a deployed National Missile Defence system on existing and future arms control regimes is an important factor in determining Canada's position. Other equally important factors include Canada's security interests for North America and Canada's involvement in collective security as a member of NATO. These three factors, as well as the views of Canadians, will need to be weighed carefully as the Government develops its position on National Missile Defence.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Douglas Roche and  
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