

Letter to the Editor
Toronto Star, January 12, 2004

Dear Editor,

Re *Debate Missile Shield*

This editorial concedes that the projected missile shield won't work, that the threat has been blown out of proportion, and that Canadians may be asked to contribute to its astronomical costs. Then it goes on to argue that Canada should join this insane programme because President Bush really, really wants it, might be annoyed with us if we don't join, and then might not share with us intelligence and high-tech weapons.

This is a very feeble argument indeed. Its servility is embarrassing. Are we a sovereign nation, or an obedient member of the US Empire? If the optimistically-named missile shield is a bad idea, we should not join it. And it is a very bad idea indeed. The beneficiaries will not be populations hoping for security from weapons of mass destruction. The route to that goal is very clear and the US refuses to take it. The beneficiaries are even now the military industries already wallowing in the huge contracts this boondoggle generates. Though it will not make any part of the world more secure from its most wicked weapons, "missile defence" will develop technology enabling the destruction of satellites and the placing of weapons in space, in pursuit of the avowed US aim of "space domination".

Canada's policy is explicitly against the weaponization of space, and a huge amount of Canadian government work towards nuclear disarmament has been frustrated by US intransigence. I am grateful that the editorial writer acknowledges these aspects of our defence policy. Joining "missile defence" will erode these important policy areas, and our national sovereignty.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Santa Barbara, Hamilton