

Canadian Pugwash Group

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The Honourable David Pratt
Minister of National Defence
National Defence Headquarters
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

January 14, 2004

Dear Minister Pratt:

The US National Missile Defense (NMD)

Members the Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG) have long studied the US missile defence proposals scientifically, from the point of view of long-term and short-term international security, and have consistently found the proposals to be counterproductive, not only to security on a world scale, but also to the security of the United States itself. The project, which is technically dubious, therefore harkens back to the false doctrine that we can increase our security at the expense of that of others. Such philosophy was surely laid to rest toward the close of the Cold War.

The 53rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, hosted by CPG, Halifax, July 2003, featured a Working Group on *Weaponization of Space and Missile Defence*. Most impressive was the submission of American, Richard Garwin, recently awarded the National Science Medal by President Bush (November 2003). Garwin's thorough scientific analysis concluded:

"We have found general acceptance of the ... conclusion:

If space weapons and destructive ASAT¹ could be avoided by the United States giving up such capability, it would be in our national security interest to do so. [1 ASAT AntiSatellite Technology]

"Nothing is forever so an aggressive campaign to prevent the deployment of weapons by others might best be implemented by a US commitment:- *not to be the first to test or deploy space weapons or to further test destructive antisatellite weapons.*"

The connection between these conclusions and missile defence is made in the text of Garwin's paper (attached).

Missile defence will, in the long term, prove to have been an expensive mistake. We are attaching the Dec 17, 2003 letter from Senator Douglas Roche, past Chairman of our Group, to Prime Minister Martin, which was also submitted to cabinet. CPG fully supports Senator Roche's letter, which clearly expounds the issues and urges Canada to centre its efforts within the United Nations system.

We commend to your attention the urgent submissions, past and current, of other Canadian peace organizations, such as Project Ploughshares, Science for Peace, Group of 78, Physicians for Global Survival and Canadian Coalition for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. A letter in the January 12 Toronto Star by CPG member Dr. Joanna Santa Barbara (attached) summarizes the case

Past Chairs

Prof. John Polanyi C.C.; Dr. William Epstein; M.Gen.(ret) Leonard Johnson; Senator Douglas Roche, O.C.

succinctly. In addition, we have attached a Canadian Pugwash Sept 2000 Press Release on NMD, that states the position we continue to endorse today.

In conclusion, we advise and ask the Government of Canada to desist from any participation in this endeavour. Participation in any aspect of NMD will will undermine Canada's sovereignty and lock us into huge expenses hindering our ability to fulfil our other political and military commitments, in particular maintenance of properly equipped peacekeeping or intervention forces. Canada should, instead, be pursuing its priorities within the UN framework.

At the very least, we ask that any decision by the Canadian government on a subject of this fundamental importance await a full and public airing of this issue in the context of the up-coming defence and foreign policy reviews, to which the Canadian Pugwash Group would welcome the opportunity to contribute.

Yours sincerely,

Adele Buckley, Ph.D.
Chair, Canadian Pugwash Group

Cc: The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister
The Honourable Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Canadian Pugwash Executive

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