

## Canadian Pugwash Group

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### Canada in a Dangerous World

The Canadian Pugwash Group Executive,

*Faced* with the prospect of four more years of the Bush Administration, and  
*Alarmed* by the Bush Administration's unilateralist foreign and defence policies,  
which are making our interconnected world a more dangerous place,

*Calls* upon the Canadian government to take major steps to ensure an independent  
foreign and defence policy for Canada, consistent with Canadian values and long held  
principles of peace, order and good government, respect for the rule of law, democracy  
and self-determination, as well as international and human security for the welfare of all  
human beings.

Specifically this means, Canada should:

- *Decline* to participate in the US Ballistic Missile Defence program, a program that  
entails colossal expenditures against an ill-defined threat, and carries great risks of  
accident and miscalculation, as well as escalating international tensions;

- *Oppose* any moves towards the weaponization of space and the hostile destruction  
of objects in space, as would occur during the testing and operation of the currently  
planned BMD system;

- *Continue* its laudable leadership within NATO to support the New Agenda  
Coalition resolutions in the UN General Assembly, which call for greater speed in  
implementing nuclear disarmament commitments;

- *Remind* the nuclear weapons states, particularly the US, of their "unequivocal  
undertaking" to the total elimination of its nuclear weapons, consistent with their  
commitment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);

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- *Reaffirm* support for the United Nations and the rule of law, including the UN Charter obligations on the non-use of force except in the common interest, noting that the one exception of self-defence against armed attack in the Charter ceases once the Security Council takes action;

- *Address* the root causes of terrorism and war by increasing funding and support for human rights, development, democratization and diplomacy, while alleviating the inequalities and unfairness in the current international system;

- *Increase* Canada's allocation to Official Development Assistance (ODA) so that it compares favourably (as a percentage of GNP) to that of other developed nations;

- *Increase* the level of Canada's contribution to UN peacekeeping, which has declined to less than one in ten soldiers deployed under the UN as compared to NATO operations;

- *Strengthen* the rapid reaction capability of the United Nations, particularly the Standby High Readiness Brigade for UN Peace Operations (SHIRBRIG);

- *Press* for a dedicated UN Emergency Service as a new mechanism to prevent armed conflict, protect civilians and address humanitarian emergencies (such as the one currently found in Darfur, Sudan);

- *Promote* the principle of the "responsibility to protect" for wide international acceptance and codification into law;

- *Find* friends among like-minded nations to defend a rules-based international order that respects life and the objectives outlined above.

In these ways, Canada could provide both moral and material leadership in a world that desperately needs such leadership.

*Statement adopted by the Executive of the Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG) after its Annual General Meeting and its Forum on "Canada in a Dangerous World", Toronto, 13 November 2004. The CPG is the Canadian affiliate of the International Pugwash movement, which won the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize for its work in nuclear disarmament.*

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