

PRESS RELEASE
November 16, 2006

**CANADA AND NATO
'DOUBLESPEAK' ON
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

"NATO's nuclear policy and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime are incompatible," concluded representatives of many Canadian and international NGOs at a workshop sponsored by the Canadian Pugwash Group and Science for Peace. As a signatory to the NPT, Canada supports the "unequivocal undertaking" for the total elimination of nuclear weapons while at the same time affirming the central tenet of NATO's Strategic Concept that nuclear weapons are "essential".

"Canada and its NATO allies must reexamine the fundamental contradiction inherent in their simultaneous loyalty to both the NPT and NATO nuclear policy," says Professor Michael Wallace from the University of British Columbia. "That the Canadian government remains silent about this glaring inconsistency is yet another example of its reflexive compliance with American wishes."

Among its recommendations in support of the threatened nuclear non-proliferation regime, delegates to the working group strongly advise the Canadian government to re-open

NATO's decade-long debate about the viability of its Strategic Concept. "Canada cannot allow the NPT to be further weakened by NATO's policies-- policies that without question undermine the very purpose of the NPT," says Professor Erika Simpson, a Board Member of the Canadian Pugwash Group and author of *NATO and the Bomb*.

The intransigence of NATO members was further demonstrated in recent voting patterns at the UN Committee on Disarmament. Canada and its NATO allies refused to support tough resolutions calling for immediate negotiations on a phased program of nuclear disarmament or to criticize the nuclear weapons states for their modernization programs. The overall voting demonstrated that Canada and the other non-nuclear NATO countries are caught in a giant contradiction.

"Canada has taken a leadership role in support of NATO nuclear policy reform before. We must push even harder now or proliferators may learn lessons that result in real security threats," warned Robin Collins, Chair of Council for the World Federalist Movement -Canada Canada. "The NATO Parliamentary Assembly meeting this week in Quebec City is an important venue for elected officials to raise the issue of NATO nuclear policy reform," he added.

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