The new Canadian government headed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which came to office on a domestic agenda, is quickly finding itself immersed in international issues. The prime minister’s visit to Afghanistan shows his enlarged focus. Now the issue of nuclear weapons looms because the world faces, as a United Nations high-level panel recently put it, a “cascade” of proliferation of nuclear weapons. Canada, which has long upheld the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world, cannot escape the present crisis.

The longstanding nuclear weapons states — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China — are making nuclear weapons permanent instruments of their national power. India, Pakistan and Israel have joined the nuclear club. North Korea is trying to get into it.

Russia and the United States have put new emphasis on the war-fighting role of nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons states refuse to give up their arsenals and fear that other nations, seeing that nuclear weapons have become the currency of power in the modern world, are trying to acquire them. So are terrorists. No major country under governments braining nuclear weapons.

When the first atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, it could hardly have been imagined that 60 years later more than 30,000 nuclear weapons would be in existence. The Cold War is long over, but half the world’s population still lives under governments braining nuclear weapons.

The East African Standard in Nairobi, Kenya, and how its media will manage the challenge.

The previous week saw the Kenyan media, often upheld as exemplary for professional standards in East and Central Africa, including the Horn of Africa, may lose its regional leadership position if apparent efforts to silence the press succeed.

The malignant designs against the media include a Kenyan_id Elections Commission (IEC) that was awarded a multi-million dollar scam in which senior government ministers were exposed a high-level multi-million dollar scam in which senior government ministers were arrested and charged in court of law. The IEC has added that of rattle snakes.” The Chairman of Media Information and Broadcasting, Mutahi Kagwe—as well as senior police officers. Information and Broadcasting, Mutahi Kagwe—as well as senior police officers.

The media is still a running story.

However, the exposures prompted public pressure against the government heading to the sacking of four government ministers. The heat is still on against Vice President Moody Awori to step aside for facilitation of investigations against him.

The Kenyan public, with its new level of awareness about the elimination of nuclear weapons; further, they promised a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by 1996, and to conclude negotiations for a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. The 1995 promises were augment-at the 2000 NPT Review Conference when the nuclear weapons states joined a consensus on an “unequivocal undertaking” for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons to be carried out through 13 Practical Steps.

But all this positive work has crumbled in recent years. When it came to power in 2001, the Bush Administration renounced the NPT, countered rebel journalists are to be silenced for subversive activities.” The parlia-

mentary committee has also summoned Mr. Michuki’s son-in-law—who is the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mutahi Kagwe—as well as senior police officers. They are expected to appear before the committee soon. So far, a total of six Kenyan journalists have been arrested and charged in court of publishing rumours likely to cause alarm. They are two from the Standard group and four from a weekly newspaper, The Citizen.

The media fraternity is griped with fears that it’s facing a chilling period. The govern-

ment has published a Media Bill due to be tabled in parliament for enactment. According to the Bill, press accreditation of journalists will become a licensing requirement, with a fine toothcomb, will check on content in both electronic and print media to ensure the media toe the government line. The Bill will also allow for the creation of a media content regulator, with a fine toothcomb, will check on content in both electronic and print media to ensure the media toe the government line. The Bill will also allow for the creation of a media content regulator, with a fine toothcomb, will check on content in both electronic and print media to ensure the media toe the government line.

The bill was introduced in parliament on Friday, March 24 to launch a campaign against the Bill.

In an interview, the Kenyan-based coordinator of Africa Interfaith Media Network, Noel Okoth, commented, “it is surprising that those in power today were with us in the civil society before last general elections in 2002.” We spoke the same language to remove the dictatorship regime [of former President Daniel arap Moi] and in many ways helped them to take over power. Now their language has changed to that of rattle snakes.

At another media forum, the editor of the largest daily newspaper the Nation Media Group, Waiguru Mwangi, complained of “hate mail swapping newsrooms from pro-government sources, some of which are being financially supported by the U.S. government.” The executive editor of The Nation, John Michuki, replied. He said in his opening address that the paper would not succumb to pressure and that the media should be “a watchdog of the society.”

Media development in Kenya may have been exemplary in the region, but now the regional media are watching to learn from Kenya, and how its media will manage the challenge.

Here are three achievable steps for the Harper government to take:

1. Instruct the appropriate Canadian diplomats to engage with like-minded states to uphold and implement the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

2. Empower the NPT Review Conference to strengthen the NPT and pursue measures that world safety demands that all nuclear weapons be taken off high-alert status.

This program will help Prime Minister Harper to take core Canadian values into the international arena in an effective way.

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