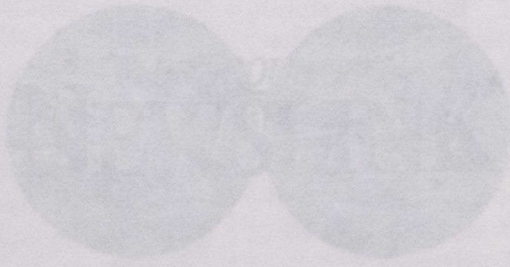


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1996 Conference Edition

Some eighty members attended the annual conference on September 20-22 at Econiche House, in Cantley, Quebec. After an initial address by Francis LeBlanc, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, (text at Annex A), the Group heard from a variety of speakers on the general theme of how to abolish, control or legitimize the use of force in world affairs, as per the following agenda:

Group of 78 Conference

20-22 September 1996, Cantley, Quebec

"Arms and the Man": Threats to Peace at the End of the Century

Friday, 20 September

Keynote speaker: The Hon. Francis LeBlanc

Session at St. Elizabeths

1. Weapons Ban: CFB & NPT
Doug Roche (Member, Sub-Com. for Disarmament)
Arieh Shalev (University of Waterloo)

2. The Arms Trade: From Register to Control?
Kevie Hegerle (Project Ploughshares)
Bill Sinclair (DFAIT)

3. CIVIL VS. NGO INTERVENS AND HOW
SHOULD IGOs & NGOs
Debbie George Swin (University of Toronto)
Howard Adelman (Centre for Refugee Studies)

4. Arms and Human Rights -
RESEARCH'S ENGAGEMENT OR ISOLATION?
Max Roche (Ch. Commission for Human Rights)
Laurie Wisberg (Human Rights Bureau)

5. On Arms Policies - HANE ONI ONI ONI
Maurice O'Neill (Institute on Governance)
The Domestic NGO Committee (CSCC)
Lucie Edwards (Bureau on Global Issues, DEAFF)

Saturday, 21 September

Summary & recommendations

A summary of the discussion, prepared by Ken Williamson, was sent to Mr. Arworthy in October. The text is at Annex B. In addition to the two Resolutions attached to the Report (relating to disarmament), the Group was especially concerned with the consistency of Canadian policies in respect of intervention in civil conflicts. What principles should guide these policies in cases of gross violations of human rights? If poverty is one of the root causes leading to conflict, how do reductions in the CIDA budget square with an emphasis on peacekeeping? How can UN procedures for intervention and Canadian participation in such procedures be improved? Howard Adelman led a discussion on the Rwanda experience, in particular.

We reached no consensus on matters of this kind, given the complexity of the issues, but all agreed on the need to explore them further. It is of interest that "peacebuilding" is a popular theme in government circles, as the statement by Lloyd Arworthy at Annex C illustrates.

Discussion notes by the following speakers are available at the Group of 78 office: Doug Roche, Max Yalden, and Laurie Wisberg.

(Annex A)

Speaking Notes for Francis LeBlanc on the occasion of the opening dinner of "Arms and the Man" - Threats to Peace at the End of the Century

Though I would like to address the broad issue of disarmament, particularly the need to be approved as we move into the 21st century—a world which is in which nuclear weapons were developed and amassed.

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