

Project Ploughshares

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Mr. Steve Lee

Director

Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

125 Sussex Drive

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Dear Steve,

I am pleased to submit the final report on the project to solicit Southern NGO views on linking overseas development assistance to reductions in military spending (referred to in earlier correspondence and the March 26, 1996 contract as "views on arms spending"). The report is submitted with appreciation for the support of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy and the John Holmes Fund for this work, and with the hope that the assembled papers will make a constructive contribution to the Government's current efforts to develop practical options for advancing its policy objective of "enhancing the impact and effectiveness of development assistance by promoting effective budgetary allocations oriented to sustainable development and corresponding reductions in military expenditures in developing countries."

I am especially grateful to the five scholars who agreed to participate in the project. Their submissions constitute the core of report. In some instances further revisions are underway and additional material may be forthcoming.

As you know, the project was designed to engage the perspectives of Southern NGOs in the broad discussion now underway in Canada regarding the effectiveness of "conditionality" as a tool for promoting military spending reductions and for ensuring the most effective use of development assistance in support of sustainable development. The Government of Canada is well-placed to hear the views of both donor and aid recipient Governments, but may find it more difficult to gain access to the views of non-governmental communities in aid recipient countries. This report attempts to make a contribution from that perspective. Papers from the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, South Asia, Central America and South America are included. An introductory paper reviews elements of the debate and reports briefly on some of the key arguments and concerns advanced in the five papers.