

in jettisoning the concept of mutual deterrence (which they see as mutual vulnerability) in order to open the door to more unilateral options and ensure continued US flexibility for international operations and interventions.

- Although as of yet there is no set time line regarding the development of NMD/TMD, the decision to proceed with such a system is being presented as a *fait accompli*. If the next round of tests in June are successful, NMD will receive an automatic green light.
- Noticeably absent from the missile defence discourse in the US is the real threat of miniature nuclear devices or suitcase bombs being smuggled into American territory. Rogue states will resort to smuggled weapons if missile defences are proven to be effective. Additionally, the development of missile defence systems will lead to a new round of proliferation and a renewal of the arms race. The point is: the condition of mutual vulnerability is an inescapable aspect of the contemporary international system.
- After extensive support for arms control and disarmament regimes, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Canada will be forced to backpedal very quickly once confronted with the reality of NMD due to the lack of real policy options or alternatives.
- The Pacific theatre is increasingly being emphasized as the most probable zone of future confrontation. China is currently a major preoccupation of US security strategy and is the most profound area of change in Bush's foreign policy thus far. Canada must develop a China policy that is outside and not influenced by our bilateral relationship with the US.
- The shift from the ambiguous 'strategic partner' nomenclature towards the 'strategic competitor' term is akin to redefining the China-US relationship in adversarial terms. Again, the important Republican business constituency will moderate such views to a certain extent and some believe the competitor rhetoric will wane since a confrontational stance vis-a-vis China is not in America's long-term national interests.
- After the internal Pentagon review is complete, we can expect to see an American disengagement from the Balkans. This disengagement may resemble a sort of 'Vietnamization' of this peacekeeping mission whereby the Europeans are deputized and expected to get a handle on their own regional affairs.
- The Russian build-up of its strategic bomber capabilities in its northern regions will bring a reinvigorated importance to NORAD and consequently, Canada.
- In terms of changes to specific weapons systems, the US will de-emphasize large aircraft carriers, which are seen as too vulnerable, and instead focus on long-range bombing capabilities. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) will be deployed for strike purposes in addition to reconnaissance. More specifically, Secretary Rumsfeld has indicated that he favours the procurement of fewer F-22s, but wants to obtain these fighters sooner. The future of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) is certainly in doubt, although the recent British