

OTHER ARMS CONTROL ISSUES

Q. What are the implications of missile defence for other arms control issues?

Suggested Reply

- Multilateral negotiation of binding international instruments has been a key element in the successful pursuit of global restraint, reduction and elimination of important weapons systems over the past 50 years. The participation and often the leadership of the US in such endeavours has been essential. We look forward to continued partnership with the US in this field.
- In this regard, Canada continues to support early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the negotiation of a compliance protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and multilateral agreement on an International Code of Conduct to combat ballistic missile proliferation.
- We also support agreement on a convention to ban the actual basing of weapons in space, which we regard as essential to protecting valuable orbital assets both civilian (an increasingly important sector of our economy) and military (where non-weapons missions contribute significantly to international peace and security).

Q. Does this mean Canada is de-emphasizing multilateral approaches to non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament?

Suggested Reply

- No. Canada regards the international legal framework of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament agreements, complemented by multilaterally-negotiated voluntary norms and export control mechanisms, as fundamental to international peace and security, and hence to Canadian security.
- The centrepiece of this framework is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which addresses both non-proliferation and disarmament. Other multilateral instruments support and strengthen it.