

tional arms trade. The NGOs also detected an anti-Soviet bias from the Department of External Affairs.

They were also distressed at Canada's attempt to amend the Final Document. Canada advocated adding "private investment" to the document's references to development. And Canada insisted that a "comprehensive data base on global and national military expenditures is an essential precondition for the study and analysis of the impact of military expenditure on the world economy and international economic system."⁷⁴ This, many felt, would simply delay any such study and analysis and forever postpone strengthening the case for economic links between armament and underdevelopment.

The NGOs were pleased with the Final Document's broader definition of security, the preservation of the disarmament-development debate on the UN agenda, and as a kind of bonus, a stronger bonding between Canadian disarmament, development and environment non-governmental organizations.

Finally, like many Canadians, the NGOs were alarmed by the contradiction between, on the one hand, Canada's position at the conference in favour of reduced military spending and, on the other, the 1987 Defence White Paper with its plans for increased military spending, and the procurement of major new weapons such as nuclear-powered attack-submarines and battlefield tanks for Europe.

In the opening address to the Conference on 24 August 1987 External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said:

Canada assumes all participants share the principle that less money must be spent on arms, and more money must be spent on development.

The control and reduction of armaments--both conventional and nuclear weapons--constitute a major Canadian foreign policy objective.

...global levels of conventional arms are high and rising, and that is a problem which many member states could help resolve by their own action...

The armaments industry and trade in arms absorb vast quantities of resources, which could be better devoted to civilian use...

⁷⁴ Amendments, Working Group III, A/Conf. 130/WGIII/CRP.1, 28 August 1987.