

David Haglund, Queen's University, questioned for reflection that "the international system had been fundamentally altered and the transatlantic zone of peace was not based upon a balance-of-power ultima ratio but a post-westphalian, post-balance-of-power order." (Kingston) The question of nuclear arms within these worldwide changes needs new approaches as does the reflection on the issue of the possibility of real progress on nuclear issues.

3. Canada and NATO:

a) "The future of NATO" An evolving global role for NATO was articulated but not defined. Questions raised included:

- * what kind of new role for NATO
- * who leads these changes
- * what about nuclear arms out of area?
- * what is the role of the European Union and the "new Europe" ?

Canada could play an important role in shaping the changing role of NATO. Some Canadian experts feel NATO is the place to get a genuine debate going on the feasibility of eliminating nuclear weapons.

b) "NATO and Nuclear Arms" Canada is in a position to help the re-thinking of how NATO might address nuclear weapon issues. Dean Oliver (Victoria roundtable) and some other strategic studies experts cautioned that to address nuclear weapons questions in the NATO review would be divisive and counter-productive at this time. Others felt, "If not now, then when?" (Peggy Mason, CCIPS). The current NATO review process timeframe (April 1999, Washington) may be short but it is a window to raise the level of debate particularly with strong public support in Canada for NATO at this time. The NATO membership is growing to include former allies of Russia and NATO has a partnership with Russia, so this is a critical moment to raise issues and debate. ("Who is the enemy now that Russia is a NATO partner?")

c) "Political Value" Many saw an opportunity to show leadership in re-thinking the "nuclear culture". Changing the rhetoric to reduce the stated "political value" of possessing nuclear arms long after their cold war political indispensability is crucial to reduce the risk of proliferation and strengthen the NPT. The emerging document from the NATO review should not contain language that reflects the status of weapons (Tom Graham, Ottawa roundtable). Canada could play a role in these wording changes (Sir Michael Alexander, UK, Victoria roundtable)

4. Canada - United States Relations: Professor Stephen Clarkson, University of Toronto, raised Canada's capacity to take an independent position on nuclear disarmament in opposition to American policy. Despite Canada's deep integration into the American economy it was felt historically Canada had taken some initiatives (criticism of Helms-Burton Act, pursuing the ban on land mines, international criminal court) which have not provoked retaliation. However, Canada's political culture of compromise, compliance and participation will likely work against taking a stand independent of US policy. The experience of fallout for New Zealand as a result of taking an independent position must be remembered.