

In focussing on the question of developing countries and military expenditure, it was suggested that a link be established between credits on external debt and reductions in expenditure on conventional weapons -- this could act as an incentive to developing countries to reduce their military expenditure. As well, it was suggested that a multilateral international agreement be negotiated to reduce total arms exports by a fixed percentage each year. These suggestions were directed at curbing arms sales as a direct contribution to easing the debt crisis and conventional arms build-up in the Third World.

The role of the superpowers as well as "bloc" politics i.e. NATO/WPO were seen as primary sources of tension. In this regard, whilst not diminishing the importance of the Disarmament and Development relationship, several people expressed the view that the issue of the arms race in nuclear weapons remained of primary importance. Although there was merit in recognizing the complexity of the issue, it was suggested that more might be achieved by focusing on the major issue -- nuclear weapons and East-West rivalry -- as this fueled the arms race in conventional weapons in "client states" and accounted for the fear and frustration expressed by many people, particularly young people.

Whilst noting the global perspective, attention was also focused on Canada's role and possible action on these issues:

- in the global arms trade it was suggested that Canada scrap, not sell, old weapons systems (e.g. CF-5s to Turkey);
- to promote understanding, establish in every university a Chair of Peace Studies and train educators for peace;
- Goose Bay -- "future economic security should not be paved by military programmes" -- alternative methods of assisting underdeveloped regions of Canada should be found;
- Canada should keep human rights (the rights of native people) first and foremost in considering development of the Goose Bay Flight Training Centre;