

The Royal Society report makes clear once again the fact that a nuclear conflict would be catastrophic. This, Mr. Clark noted, "reinforces our basic conviction that any nuclear war must be prevented." Noting that the report has "national security implications," he reaffirmed Canada's commitment to NATO and to its policy of deterrence which "has ensured Canada's security for over 35 years." He stressed that the Royal Society report reinforced the basic conviction that "no nuclear war can be won in the traditional understanding of victory." Mr. Clark stated that the Canadian Government would therefore continue to do everything within its power to deter all war. This includes maintaining an active role in multilateral arms control negotiations in Geneva, Stockholm and Vienna, as well as supporting and encouraging the United States in its efforts to negotiate reductions in nuclear weapons with the Soviet Union .

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What, then, does the Nuclear Winter theory tell us about how to live in the nuclear age?

The world has known since August 6, 1945 -- the bombing of Hiroshima -- that nuclear weapons are the most deadly tools of war and that a nuclear war would wreak destruction life on a scale never previously witnessed or imagined. Now, a growing number of astronomers, biologists and physical scientists have informed us through the Nuclear Winter findings, that nothing less than the continuation of human life is at stake.

Of course, Nuclear Winter has not been proven beyond all doubt. Such proof can only be determined with certainty in the wake of an actual nuclear war. Nevertheless, a growing body of reputable, informed, scientific evidence makes it clear that anyone who would disregard the implications of Nuclear Winter is acting in a most reckless manner.

The consideration of the effects of Nuclear Winter must be taken into account by all policy-makers in all national governments. It must lead us to renew and redouble our efforts to reduce and eliminate all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

Nuclear Winter leaves us with profound questions for the future. We must begin to think seriously about our planet. Do we want Earth to be nothing more than a frozen, smouldering chunk of clay going about its galactic way -- no longer a shining beacon of blue light in outer space? Or do we want this planet, our home, to continue to glisten with the glories of nature and resound with the vibrancy of its inhabitants?