



## NATO – NUCLEAR WEAPONS ROUNDTABLE REPORT

August 24, 2000

Ottawa

*In partnership with Canada's NATO Mission in Bruxelles and the International Security Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development organised a one-day roundtable on NATO and Nuclear Weapons (August 24, 2000). The participants first, examined NATO policies and the commitments made at the NTP Review Conference in New York (1999). Second, they assessed steps and strategies toward a successful revision of NATO policy starting with Ministers in December (2000). Third, they identified challenges to Canadian initiatives at NATO as well as possible partnerships. Chaired by Steve Lee, participants included David Wright (Canadian Ambassador to NATO), Ted Whiteside (Weapons of Mass Destruction Centre, NATO Headquarters), Senator Doug Roche (Middle Power Initiative), Tom McDonald (BASIC U.K.), as well as other government officials and non-government experts from Canada and abroad. The discussions benefited from the participation of Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, who hosted lunch for the Canadian participants the previous day.*

### I. Goals and Key Questions for Discussion

The goal of the one-day roundtable was to think about steps and strategies toward a successful revision of NATO's policy on nuclear weapons. Key questions included:

- What kind of technical changes are necessary to ensure that NATO conforms to the spirit and letter of the recently renewed NPT?
- Which factors would contribute to eliminating/diminishing the political value ascribed to nuclear weapons? How to change NATO's discourse (doctrine) on the essential nature and utility of nuclear weapons?
- How to ensure/catalyse support for Canadian initiatives within and outside NATO? How to assess potential problems faced by NATO governments at home and in respect to their relationship with the United States? How to mobilise public support and inspire political leadership for nuclear disarmament (elimination)?
- Where to go from here toward the December 2000 NATO Ministers Meeting and beyond?

### II. Progress and Outlook

Canada's initiatives aimed at revising NATO's nuclear policy are important, difficult, and require a long-term commitment from the Canadian government. Canada's goals at the Washington Summit (April 1999), grounded in part by the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (tabled on December 10, 1998), included: