

MEMORANDUM

Date: 24 April 1998

To: The Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, M.P., P.C.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

From: Steve Lee, National Director
Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

Subject: Summary Report on the Seminar, "Practical Steps for Canadian Policy
Development on Nuclear Weapons Issues," 27 March 1998

c.c. Ferry De Kerckhove, CPD
Rob McRae, CPP
Andre Ouellette, CPP
Paul Meyer, IDC
Charles Court
Bill Graham, M.P., Chair, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
Gerry Schmitz, Library of Parliament

Several common themes emerged from the seminar. These themes include:

- a strong interest for a larger public role through conferences, negotiations, fora, advisory groups, and public opinion;
- a strong interest for active Canadian leadership and initiative in NATO review, No-First-Use, De-alerting, World Court clarity, the NPT, nuclear-free zones, help to Russia, stronger international law, and flexible coalitions;
- a strong interest in a special role for middle powers (Canada) to promote nuclear disarmament, NPT, and No-First-Use in NATO; and
- the need for government to provide more information about the World Court ruling, NATO obligations, the NPT, and the rule of law; in this regard, better co-ordination of information, education and perspectives between DFAIT and DND should be included.

The seminar raised other issues:

- the role and nature of civil society;
- sanctions as an enforcement mechanism to promote nuclear disarmament;
- the Arctic, submarines, and nuclear issues; and
- a desire for foreign policy issues to be raised during federal election campaigns.

NB This one page summary was accompanied by a summary of policy recommendations from each Working Group.