

## REPORTS OF DISCUSSIONS

**ST. JOHN'S/NEWFOUNDLAND  
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In addressing the issue of Disarmament and Development in its broadest terms, and with particular emphasis on Canada, participants discussed peace education, the role of NGO's, teachers, youth, alternative roles for the Canadian Armed Forces and armed forces in general. A number of recurring themes emerged: the underdevelopment of the Maritimes; concern over the "militarization" of the Maritimes and the ethical quandry in which it placed the jobless; and the need for a genuinely independent Canadian foreign policy. As well, conceptual issues were discussed, including the question of political will, the nature of conflict and non-violent participation in society, the co-existence of different political ideologies and religions and the need for more understanding, justice and cooperation. The question of a new global order was raised -- an order which would not be narrowly focussed on the nation state. The Paris Conference was seen as a means of sensitizing people and changing world perceptions.

Several people offered practical suggestions designed to bring about these changes in thinking:

- that the Canadian Armed Forces be trained in non-traditional roles -- designed to assist in development in developing countries;
- in attempting to further the concept of peace as a positive state of social justice and enhance understanding, it was suggested that a "Five Year Plan" of workshops for teachers in the field of peace education be implemented. This programme of seminars and lectures would also involve students and could include an exchange programme with Third World and East bloc nations;
- in order to educate the public on the Disarmament and Development relationship, there was a suggestion for increased funding to NGOs so that they might pursue the topics in some detail;
- in order to enhance the integration of the issues of Disarmament and Development domestically, it was suggested that a Ministry of Security be established which would oversee both Defence and External Affairs matters.