

The protection of all human life in the fifth decade of the nuclear age requires well-considered moral, legal and political answers to the fundamental questions posed by the threat of nuclear war. It is time for the international legal community to distinguish itself in addressing the full range of nuclear weapons questions in the same manner as the scientific, medical, and religious communities have done.

The President of the Canadian Bar Association, Claude R. Thomson, has taken a very important step, in an address July 21, 1985 to the Conference on the Law of the World in Berlin, calling on international lawyers to determine that nuclear weapons of destruction are unacceptable in law.

“We must direct our message not only to those in charge of governments but to all citizens of the world who are at risk. Mankind must be shocked out of its complacent acceptance of the continued build-up and proliferation of nuclear weapons. They are illegal because they have the potential to destroy all of us.”