

CANADA and STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL - NO MORE FREE RIDES

Submitted by

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to the

Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations

When Canadians reflect upon this country's record in the field of arms control and disarmament, it is generally of the multilateral fora in which Canada participates, particularly NATO and the United Nations, that they think. Indeed, we can be proud of the contributions made over the years by such men as General E.L.M. Burns, Lester Pearson, George Ignatieff, and others who have represented Canada more recently in this field.

As we look ahead, though, I think we cannot help concluding that a growing proportion of our arms control effort will need to be pursued within the framework of our bilateral relations with the United States. That is the contention I would like to make today.

This is not to say that our multilateral arms control diplomacy will or should be diminished. As the Government's foreign policy Green Paper put it, those fora "provide an essential mechanism for smaller and middle powers to influence arms control issues."

Concrete developments in the strategic environment, however, will increasingly press in on Canada in such a way as to make arms control a more prominent issue in our bilateral relations with Washington.