

She advocated arms control and disarmament for the same reason, as long as the objectives are realistic.

Ms Krieger argued that with the superpowers reducing their defence budgets and exercising less control over the system, the question of the dissemination of weapons becomes of utmost importance. She argued in favour of stricter national arms export controls.

A functionalist perspective

According to Professor Dufour, the 1990s will be characterized by increases in armed conflict, in terrorism, in economic problems and in ecological catastrophes. He opined that the mainstream, arms controller approach to peace and security — namely to maintain the established order through deterrence and use of force if necessary — is costly and difficult to sustain. He advocated an alternative approach, promoted by peace and environmental movements, which emphasizes justice, equal sharing of planetary resources, common security and respect for human rights and the environment.

Professor Dufour argued that Canada's international image as a peacemaker suffered during the Gulf War and that, to regain this image, Canada should make tangible gestures for peace and disarmament in the 1990s. He recommended that the government develop and adopt a "White Plan" for peace, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. As examples of policies that could be incorporated into such a plan, he proposed:

- introducing an obligatory course on disarmament and peace in Canadian universities;
- withdrawing from NATO;
- eliminating all Canadian weapons and converting the Canadian arms industry to non-military production;
- transforming DND into a Department for Security and Peace, which would incorporate the functions of Environment Canada; and
- creating "zones of security" or "parks of peace" across Canada and making the country a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

During the lively discussion that followed, several participants expressed support for Professor Dufour's

proposals. Others disagreed with his assumptions, pointing out that Canada is not participating in an arms race and that the defence budget has not been keeping pace with inflation. They further noted that much of the defence budget goes to support regional economic development. These participants argued that Canada cannot charge ahead and disarm the world, but must work slowly and steadily within the limits of the international system.

Conversion

Several participants argued that the government should develop a national conversion plan and support industrial conversion efforts in Canada. They suggested that the Defence Industry Productivity Program, which provides funds to companies for military research and development, could be a source of funding for conversion studies and support. Participants noted that employee and other non-governmental organizations in Quebec have already done much study in this area and that government and industry could usefully draw on this expertise when developing policy.

Arms transfers

Pointing to the difficulty of identifying stable regions and noting that stable regions can quickly become unstable, some participants argued that Canada should stop exporting military goods. It was also recommended that Canada strengthen its policy guidelines to prohibit the export of military goods to any country that violates human rights, and that the government stop subsidizing the defence industry.

Nuclear proliferation

One participant argued that the NPT is a disaster in the long run. By selling nuclear technology, we are building "nuclear mines" around the world and thus creating the potential for proliferation under the guise of non-proliferation. He recommended that NPT Article IV, which encourages cooperation to facilitate the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, be amended to encourage the sharing of "energy" technology, without specifying nuclear. This proposal received some support. It was further suggested that possession of nuclear

weapons should be regarded akin to apartheid and slavery, and that countries engaging in the practice should be shunned as international pariahs.

Other participants argued that Canada must deal with the reality of the international system, where competing national interests and state sovereignty rule. They opined that the elimination of nuclear weapons would be more dangerous than the control thereof. Another participant observed that there is a tendency among Canadians to believe international problems can be regulated by law. Outside Canada, international law and the UN are far from being seen as important. Security problems are looked at in bilateral and regional perspective.

Other

It was also suggested that the government do the following:

- put the environmental consequences of military activities on the agenda of the UN Conference on the Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992;
- ban war toys and other cultural objects that promote the use of arms as a means of solving conflicts;
- stop uranium exports and cruise missile testing;
- reduce DND's share of the federal budget;
- make Canada a "zone of peace," i.e., disarm completely and put in place a system of local, non-violent civil defence;
- use the West's desire for indefinite NPT extension as a bargaining chip to convince the USA to stop further development of nuclear weapons; and
- extend the MTCR approach to cover other dangerous technologies.

The Consultative Group consists of academics, peace activists, private researchers and former officials who meet periodically to advise the government on its arms control and disarmament policies. In addition to Consultative Group members, the Montreal consultation included a number of other individuals from Quebec who are knowledgeable about and interested in arms control and disarmament issues, as well as officials from EAITC and DND. ■