

**MONTREAL/QUEBEC
APRIL 20, 1986**

The discussion in Montreal focussed on several different issues: the costs and benefits in economic terms of the arms race, the effect of militarism on the economies of both developed and developing countries, the role of the U.N. in moving forward on issues of both Disarmament and Development. As well, some examination was given to the role of Canada at the Paris conference, the ongoing policies of Canada in the areas of both disarmament and development, the polarity of views in Canada on the articulation of these policies, and the perceived necessity to reconcile different aspects of Canadian public policy -- taking into account Canada/U.S. relations and the role of NGOs and individuals in the policy process.

In elaborating the discussion of Canada's role, it was suggested that there was some difficulty in reconciling the traditional image of Canada as a peace-maker with present policies which seemed to some be focussed more closely on defence concerns which included the arms trade, NATO and NORAD. There was a feeling that, with the current policy direction, Canada's historical image would become somewhat fragile and not necessarily remain credible.

In contrast to this approach, the view was strongly expressed that Canada was not spending excessively on defence commitments, particularly in NATO. In examining the influence that Canada could exert on the global scene, it was suggested that Canada would not be credible were it to relinquish all responsibility for its sovereignty by reducing further already limited defence spending.

In speaking of the development aspects of the Disarmament/Development relationship, it was suggested that Canada examine closely its own position in regard to militarism as a response to domestic underdevelopment and unemployment eg. in the Maritimes where defence-related industries were being presented to the local population as the only way out of its present economic depression.

On the broad topic of foreign policy formulation in Canada, it was suggested that the issues which comprise the foreign policy agenda of Canada were not discussed openly, freely or frequently enough by either the public or politicians. Some challenged the integrity of the democratic process in regard to having either full debate or responsive policies from the Government on "disarmament" questions. It was suggested that referenda be conducted on specific, key questions eg. cruise missile testing.