

The meeting was co-hosted by Steve Lee of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development and Ernie Regehr of Project Ploughshares at the University of Waterloo. Franklyn Griffiths, University of Toronto, and Peter Jones, Privy Council Office also participated as Canadian observers.

The experts were:

- John Steinbruner, Director of International Security Studies at the University of Maryland,
- Charles Ferguson, Federation of American Scientists,
- Norwegian Jorn Siljeholm at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),
- George Lewis, Associate Director of the Security Studies Program, MIT
- Briton John Garnett at Defence Studies, King's College, London,
- German Jurgen Scheffran of Darmstadt University,
- Russian Taira Koybaeva at Utah State University,
- Tom Graham, Second Chance Foundation, and
- Stephen Young from the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers.

Public Involvement

The experts asked Canada's government and civil society to generate greater public debate on NMD by actively pursuing alternative approaches to managing the ballistic missile threat. This can be done by:

- holding conferences and roundtables within NATO countries to stimulate informed public and expert discussion and initiatives on NMD;
- give attention to alternative diplomatic and political approaches that highlight the security concerns of so-called "rogue states" pursuing ballistic missile capability and their reasons for doing so;
- convene a small working group of international experts to explore and begin to design a multilateral approach to missile early warning and surveillance

Deployment Impact

The experts saw Canada, both its government and its civil society, to be in an excellent position to facilitate elements of the necessary international debate, and to initiate a process of study toward the elaboration of requirements for an effective multilateral missile early warning, control and monitoring system.

The experts emphasized that:

- even partial deployment of the United States' National Missile Defense system (NMD), whether it works or not, would escalate tensions between the United States, China and Russia,
- NMD deployment threatens to "decouple" the historic mutual defense link between the United States and Europe, creating an increasingly isolationist "Fortress America," apparently willing only to defend itself,
- Canada's endorsement of the NMD could have an adverse impact on our relations with China and Russia.,
- NMD would contribute to undermining the entire global arms control regime and could