

**SASKATOON/SASKATCHEWAN  
APRIL 28, 1986**

Discussion in Saskatoon focussed on several major themes including: the consultative process between Government and the public, the effect of armed conflict on children, the nature and extent of military expenditure in Third World countries as well as in the developed world -- particularly in Canada, Canada's arms exports and policies and Canada's ODA policy and programme. As well, there was some discussion of the economics of development and the control of capital in today's competitive world. The role of both development and peace education was touched upon in a wide-ranging discussion which addressed more amorphous questions dealing with the role of the member-state, the importance of human development and the nature of East-West rivalry and confrontation.

In addressing the concept of Consultative Group meetings, it was noted that there was a need for such forums in order to conduct discussions on a more regular basis. It was suggested that there was at present a "missing link" between the Government and the public on these issues. Despite the Green Paper and Special Joint Committee exercise, there was a feeling that public concerns were not reaching and certainly not influencing or affecting in any significant manner government policy. There was a call for enhanced consultation and better communication with the Government.

In discussing militarism in the Third World -- from excessive military spending by Third World regimes to actual situations of conflict -- it was suggested that children were always the first victims. There was some agreement on the fact that there was a direct linkage between disarmament and development. Therefore, in order to assist the most impoverished countries and set a global example, it was suggested that Canada decrease military spending and increase ODA.

The nature of development assistance was discussed at some length, with Canadian aid policy coming under attack for being "tied." As well, the efficacy and real value of smaller development projects which responded more directly to local needs was noted. Thus, it was recommended that Canada funnel more aid through the NGO system.

It was also noted that, as a trading nation, Canada well recognized that international commerce was predicated on peace and co-operation amongst nations. Thus, more active participation by Canada in development assistance in all parts of the globe was strongly encouraged. It was