

Canada's proposed contribution to the dismantling of American and Russian nuclear weapons has captured media attention. Stakeholders in Canada agreed to participate in a retreat on the "Disposition of Russian and American Weapons Plutonium in Ontario Hydro Bruce Nuclear Units." The event, which took place October 17-18, 1996, was organized by Professor Franklyn Griffiths, holder of the George Ignatieff Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies, University College, University of Toronto. Participants included government officials, academics, representatives from local communities around Bruce, elected members of the federal parliament and provincial legislative assembly, and representatives from non-governmental organizations, AECL and Ontario Hydro. The retreat produced a frank exchange of views, a greater understanding of the various perspectives, and clarification of much information. IDN participated in the retreat, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as a sponsor, assisted in its organization. IDN supported this initiative to encourage transparency in governmental activities and increase effective communication among stakeholders.