



NATO - NUCLEAR WEAPONS ROUNDTABLE REPORT

August 24, 2000

Ottawa

In partnership with Canada's NATO Mission in Brussels and the International Security Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development organized a one-day roundtable on NATO and Nuclear Weapons (August 24, 2000). The participants first examined NATO policies and the commitments made at the NTP Review Conference in New York (1994). Second, they discussed steps and strategies toward a successful revision of NATO policy starting with Ministers in December (2000). Third, they identified challenges to Canada's possible participation. Chaired by Steve Lee, participants included: [illegible] (Ambassador to NATO), Ted Whiteside (Weapons of Mass Destruction Centre), [illegible] (Headquarters), Senator Doug Roche (Missile Over Initiative), Tom McL [illegible] (as well as other government officials and non-government experts from Canada and the United States). The discussions described from the participation of Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, who hosted them for the Canadian participants the previous day.

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I. Goals and Key Questions for Discussion

The goal of the one-day roundtable was to think about steps and strategies toward a successful revision of NATO's policy on nuclear weapons. Key questions included:

- What kind of technical changes are necessary to ensure that NATO conforms to the spirit and letter of the recently renewed NPT?
- Which factors would contribute to eliminating/dismantling the political value attached to nuclear weapons? How to change NATO's discourse (doctrine) on the role, value and utility of nuclear weapons?
- How to ensure/enable support for Canadian initiatives in NATO? How to address the relationship with the United States? How to maintain leadership for nuclear disarmament (elimination)?
- Where to go from here toward the December 2000 beyond?

II. Progress and Outlook

Canada's initial view dated at revising NATO's policy on nuclear weapons. It requires a long-term commitment from the Canadian government. This was discussed at the Washington Summit (April 1994), expanded in the NATO Review Conference (December 1994) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (November 1994).

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