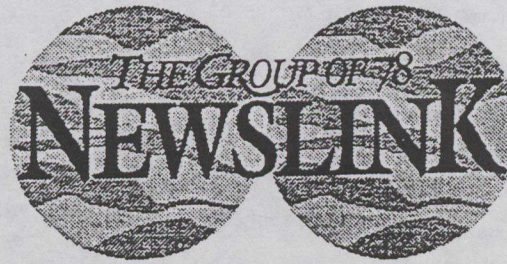


The Group of 78 /
Le Groupe des 78
Issue / numéro 23
December 1996



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1996 Conference Edition

Some eighty members attended the annual conference on September 20-22 at Econiche House, in Cantley, Quebec. After an initial address by Francis LeBlanc, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, (text at Annex A), the Group heard from a variety of speakers on the general theme of how to abolish, control or legitimize the use of force in world affairs, as per the following agenda:

GROUP OF 78 CONFERENCE

20-22 September 1996, Cantley, Quebec

*"Arms and the Man"; Threats to Peace
at the End of the Century*

FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Keynote speaker: The Hon. Francis LeBlanc

SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

1. *NUCLEAR ISSUES - CTB & NPT*
Doug Roche (Former Amb. for Disarmament)
Ashok Kapur (University of Waterloo)
2. *THE ARMS TRADE; FROM REGISTER TO CONTROL?*
Ernie Regehr (Project Ploughshares)
Jill Sinclair (DFAIT)
3. *CIVIL WAR - WHO INTERVENES AND HOW?*
STATES, IGOs & NGOs
Janice Gross Stein (University of Toronto)
Howard Adelman (Centre for Refugee Studies)
4. *ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS -*
PUNISHMENT, ENGAGEMENT OR ISOLATION?
Max Yalden (Cdn. Commission for Human Rights)
Laurie Wiseberg (Human Rights Internet)
5. *CANADIAN POLICIES - PANEL DISCUSSION*
Maureen O'Neil (Institute on Governance)
Tim Draimin (NGO Consultant, CCIC)
Lucie Edwards (Bureau on Global Issues, DFAIT)

SUNDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

summary & recommendations

A summary of the discussion, prepared by Ken Williamson, was sent to Mr. Axworthy in October. The text is at Annex B. In addition to the two Resolutions attached to the Report (relating to disarmament), the Group was especially concerned with the consistency of Canadian policies in respect of intervention in civil conflicts. What principles should guide these policies in cases of gross violations of human rights? If poverty is one of the root causes leading to conflict, how do reductions in the CIDA budget square with an emphasis on peacebuilding? How can UN procedures for intervention and Canadian participation in such procedures be improved? Howard Adelman led a discussion on the Rwanda experience, in particular.

We reached no consensus on matters of this kind, given the complexity of the issues, but all agreed on the need to explore them further. It is of interest that "peacebuilding" is a popular theme in government circles, as the statement by Lloyd Axworthy at Annex C illustrates.

Discussion notes by the following speakers are available at the Group of 78 office: Doug Roche, Max Yalden, and Laurie Wiseberg.

(Annex A)

**Speaking Notes for Francis LeBlanc on the occasion
of the opening dinner of "Arms and the Man" -
Threats to Peace at the End of the Century**

Tonight I would like to address the broad issue of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament, particularly the questions that must be answered as we attempt to ensure that Canadian policies are the right ones for the world of the 21st century—a world much different than the one in which nuclear weapons were developed and amassed.

You will all be aware of Canada's longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament. This policy has enjoyed widespread non-partisan political and popular support dating from Canada's signature of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968. In May 1978 this policy was entrenched on the international stage with PM Trudeau's "strategy of suffocation", the ultimate intent of which was "to halt the arms race in the laboratory...(and) a step in the direction of genuine disarmament."