

Recommendation 12

The Government should not make a decision about missile defence systems being developed by the United States, as the technology has not been proven and details of deployment are not known. However, the Government should continue to monitor development of this program with the Government of the United States and continue to oppose the weaponization of outer space.

The Government is thoroughly reviewing all facets of US missile defence plans and their implications in advance of any Canadian decision on missile defence. The Government has conducted regular and routine consultations with the US and allies, both bilaterally and through NATO, on this issue and will continue to do so. Canada shares US concerns about the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction but also continues to have questions about missile defence's potential impact on arms control and global stability.

Canada remains opposed to the weaponization of outer space. Canada does support the continuing use of space for military purposes such as surveillance, intelligence gathering and communications, but remains opposed to the positioning of actual weapons in outer space. It is currently not clear that a US missile defence system would include or promote the weaponization of space.

The US has begun to disclose some details of its proposed missile defence system and a high degree of effort and resources are being devoted to it. The US plans to deploy an initial missile defence capability by 2004. Given this decision and timeline, the Government of Canada will evaluate how it might continue to engage the US, and assess whether Canada should play a role.

Recommendation 13

Taking into consideration the forthcoming reviews of Canada's foreign and defence policy, and recognizing the important contribution of the Canadian Forces in achieving Canada's foreign policy goals, the Government should commit itself to substantially increased and stable multi-year funding for the Department of National Defence.

The Government is committed to providing National Defence with the resources required to fulfil its mandate in a dangerous and unpredictable security environment.

The defence budget reductions that characterized the 1990s, part of the Government's successful effort to eliminate the federal deficit, came to an end several years ago. The Department of National Defence received additional funding in the federal budgets of

