

**OTTAWA/ONTARIO  
MAY 9, 1986**

(To accommodate scheduling, the Ottawa conference was held on May 9, after the cross-Canada tour had concluded.)

A wide-ranging discussion focussed on several major themes amongst them: the fundamental question of the relationship between Disarmament and Development -- is there a linkage; the possibility and probable effect on the world's economies of decreasing military expenditures and increasing development -- in both the developed and developing world; the differing perspectives of North and South on this issue; the concept of conversion and the desirability of studies being undertaken in Canada; the role and possible tactics/contributions/goals to be considered as Canada prepares for the Paris Conference.

Whilst several participants spoke in unqualified terms about the irrevocable nature of the linkage between disarmament and development others posited that there was, in fact, no causal link between the two and considered the relationship to be contradictory and simplistic. It was also suggested that, whilst there was probably no prima facie linkage between disarmament and development, there was a linkage in terms of impact ie. military expenditure and its impact on the potential for development. It was noted that the subject, whilst not having been examined previously in the setting of an international conference, had been placed before the international community in some detail with the 1981 Thorssen Report. Noting that the Canadian Government did, at the time, submit a substantive response to the Secretary-General on the Study, several went on to question the inaction on the part of Canada and other national governments -- save Sweden -- in failing to respond to the recommendations at the end of that Report. It was suggested that it was not too late for Canada to act upon their recommendation, with priority and emphasis given to a Canadian study on conversion.

In addition to the call for a conversion study which, it was suggested, could be funded by using a small part of the DIPS funding programme, it was suggested that there was a need for a good deal more practical analysis of the elements which enter into the Disarmament/Development discussion. For example, a study of the reasons for the level of military spending in specific countries was considered as useful, as would be studies on the linkages between military expenditure and economic debt, including job creation.

Several participants focussed on the role of the Third World in the Disarmament/Development relationship, for example: the "opportunity cost" of military expenditure in countries which could not sustain military budgets/purchases