

insecurity. This is a policy environment in which the government, to please one side, must inevitably alienate the other.

A Common Security Strategy is a third approach that reconciles the other two. It would win support among the largest parts of both camps because it is compatible with, and accepts the need for, adequate deterrence in the immediate term, while providing a practical, actionable strategy for progress towards a world of genuine peace in which disarmament becomes not only possible, but even inevitable. A policy approach which could appeal to both sides of the highly polarized disarmament issue is politically desirable on that account.

3. With a small population attempting to exercise sovereignty over a vast country, Canada has a special interest in promoting the evolution of a common security world order, since it seems outlandish to suppose we could ever afford our own credible military defense over such an enormous territory. So long as the defense of Canada is conceived of in military terms in the context of a war system, Canada will remain in the disadvantageous position of having to accept the protection of the U.S. We are familiar with the pressures and constraints this places on Canada in its relationship with the U.S. We are led, ironically, to have to live with certain limitations upon our sovereignty as a result of having to rely on the U.S. to defend it. Any move toward a common security system which would diminish as a factor in international relations something Canada is weak in (i.e., military force) would directly enhance our position and the positions of other small- and middle-power countries. This is another reason why it is up to Canada to take the initiative toward common security, and why we should not expect much leadership from the large powers who have a surfeit of force.

4. A common security policy would be big enough and bold enough to capture the imagination and pride of Canadians. All evidence suggests that a common security policy would win wide support among the Canadian public. An opinion poll conducted for the Mulroney government recently showed an overwhelming 94 per cent of Canadians believe it is important that Canada try to make the United Nations an effective body for promoting peace and security.⁵

5. A common security approach is a way of making simultaneous progress on the whole array of other problems confronting the world. In strengthening in the minds of governments the idea of the world as one society, and the concept of using global institutions of due process, we would be building at the same time the psychological and institutional infrastructure needed to deal with other global crises in the area of the environment, global poverty, etc.--crises which in many ways, as has been noted, represent an even greater threat to our security than nuclear weapons.

⁵ "Canadians see world hunger, peace as top foreign issues," Toronto Star, Nov. 12, 1985, p. 1.