

**VANCOUVER/BRITISH COLUMBIA
APRIL 30, 1986**

Discussion in Vancouver focussed on several different issues including: the economic effects of military spending in developed and developing countries, the concept of security, the role of the private sector in development, Canada's involvement in the global arms trade, the role of women in disarmament and the concerns of young people.

The importance of consultation and dialogue with the Government was also addressed as well as Canada's policies in the fields of both disarmament and development. Some detailed discussion was also given to Canadian defence policy -- particularly in the context of NORAD.

Several people drew on the recent experience of the Vancouver Peace Festival to suggest that the Government was "out of touch" with public concerns and unresponsive to the public sense of urgency regarding the question of disarmament. The Government was urged by some to "shed its rhetoric and take some action."

It was suggested that nuclear weapons had been rendered useless as instruments of security or military might, therefore unilateral actions to disarm were viewed as both sensible and necessary. It was believed that such action by Canada (eg. stopping cruise missile testing or voting for a freeze) would provide some impetus for change in the U.S. position.

It was suggested that Canada consider giving positive response and encouragement to recent Soviet arms control offers and proposals. Canada was urged to leave NATO and NORAD as well as consider declaring itself a NWFZ in order to play a more effective role internationally as a non-aligned power.

Some expressed concern about a perceived lack of leadership from the Government on disarmament and development questions. It was believed that this inaction reflected a lack of understanding of the issues as well as a paralysis induced by the quest for closer relations with the U.S. In this regard, it was suggested that change would not therefore come from politicians, it would come from publics -- thus the need for public education was stressed.

It was suggested that the Government consider setting the stage for a bold new Canadian policy by announcing at the Paris conference that Canada would: