

SHIFT IN CANADA'S POSITION

Q. Has there been a shift in Canada's position under the current Foreign Minister that seeks to be more accommodating to US defence aspirations? Is the government paving the way to support US plans for missile defence?

Suggested Reply

- There is no shift in this government's approach to US proposals for missile defence.
- Canada has not taken a stance for or against US plans for missile defence which are still evolving and are currently under review.
- We have been clear to the US in the past, and we are continuing to make clear our concerns about the possible implications of missile defence for global strategic stability and the potential for it to spark a new arms race and undermine the existing non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament regime.
- We share US concerns about new threats to both national and global security, including threats from intra-state conflict, from terrorist attack and from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Canada is continuing to engage the US on how best to address current security threats, whether through increased diplomatic efforts, negotiated agreements, or through some form of missile defence. Canada will continue to assess US plans for missile defence as they emerge.
- The position that Canada ultimately adopts will reflect careful consideration of all the facts and will be predicated on what is best for Canada and global security as a whole.
- Canada welcomes US willingness to deepen its dialogue with allies and other concerned countries—including Russia and China.
- We are urging the US to take all the time needed to fully explore the implications of their plans for missile defence and to find a way forward that maintains global strategic stability and that advances the security of the US, as well of all its allies.