

The intent of this -- and all -- Defence White Papers is to outline the defence obligations of Canada and the means by which these commitments will be met in the years ahead. Discussion of Canada's military spending should, of course, be placed in its full context. Today, defence spending in Canada is about half of what it was 25 years ago, related to our gross national product. Though we are the second-largest country in the world (with three oceans), the 2.23 per cent of the GNP we spend on defence ranks us 95th out of 144 nations. Sweden, a neutral country, spends 3 per cent. The size of Canada's armed forces (84,600) as a ratio of our population ranks us 97th out of 144 nations.

The White Paper states that a strong national defence is a major component -- but only one component -- Canada's international security policy. Arms control and disarmament and the peaceful resolution of disputes are equally important. Thus, the White Paper is not a surrogate Foreign Policy White Paper. All these activities should be seen as mutually supportive, and all of them enable Canada to play a role in the changing international community in putting into place the building blocks of peace.

Canada has six such "blocks":

- Radical reductions in nuclear arms is the core of our disarmament policy. That is why the Reagan-Gorbachev summit process, leading to the dismantling of not only all intermediate and shorter-range but also 50 per cent of strategic missiles is greeted with enthusiasm. The Canada government has consistently pressed both superpowers to achieve this.
- The realization of a negotiated and verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty has long been, and remains, a fundamental Canadian objective. Canada wants a halt to all nuclear testing by all countries in all environments for all time. At the United Nations this fall, the Government again co-sponsored a resolution urging the Conference on Disarmament to "initiate substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear test ban treaty at the beginning of its 1988