

**SAINT JOHN/NEW BRUNSWICK  
APRIL 18, 1986**

In a wide-ranging discussion on the question of Disarmament and Development, a primary focus of examination was the role of Canada in both Disarmament and Development as well as a public perception of "mixed messages" being sent by the Government on questions of foreign policy -- particularly in these two important areas. As well, there was concern expressed about the militarization of the Atlantic provinces and the nature of Canada-U.S. relations.

Some participants perceived a shift toward the U.S. in foreign policy matters. Highlighted by "U.S. aggressiveness" as seen in the Libyan action, participants spoke of the desirability and possibility of Canada distancing itself from U.S. policies in order to maintain its more traditional approach to global relations eg. through the U.N. which it should be trying to strengthen.

Using the example of the reluctance and lack of response from one New Brunswick M.P. to meet and discuss with constituents the Disarmament and Development relationship, several people expressed concern at an absence of receptive and progressive policies emerging from the Government. Whilst policies and actions were not forthcoming, there was still a good deal of rhetoric which some felt to be at variance with real policy. Thus, the concern over "mixed messages".

In discussing the Disarmament/Development relationship, many recognized that the subject was much broader and complex than a simple reallocation of resources from Disarmament to Development -- it required a redefinition of perceptions and attitudes. The relationship between Disarmament and Development was seen to be a "revolutionary programme." Thus, it would not be an easy transition into this new mode of thinking. Rather, it would involve a painful and stressful readjustment.

In speaking of the disparity between spending on arms and desperate underdevelopment in much of the world as a "grave, double-barreled immorality," some suggested that Canada take a stronger stand on these issues in order to move Canadian and global policies in a direction that would reflect this important interrelationship.