

decades been in the forefront of the development of global security policies now coming into the mainstream.

One might think that the Group of 78 could now rest on their laurels. Job well done.

Sorry. Not only is there no room for complacency, there is a new urgency in articulating the Group of 78 values throughout the land today.

### **Reactionary policies of the Alliance**

This urgency is caused by the new assertion of a political philosophy at complete odds with the Group of 78. This philosophy is encapsulated in the foreign and defence policies of the Canadian Alliance, now the Official Opposition in Parliament.

Claiming that Canada's international credibility has been "shamefully squandered during the past 30 years", the Alliance's foreign policy document, *Canada and the Millennium*, alleges that Canadian foreign policy is "now composed of little more than fashionable catch phrases such as "soft power" and "human security".

Consider four of the Alliance's main foreign and defence policies contained in the party's official documentation:

- An increase in Canadian military spending by practically doubling the defence budget in terms of GDP by the 2010-2015 period. The necessary funds can be found in savings realized in Canada's foreign assistance budget.
- Increasing military spending and capabilities in order to strengthen Canada's role in NATO, since "all hopes the UN would create the conditions for eliminating war have been dashed".
- The Canadian government, having done "incalculable damage" to the national interest in its "fascination" with the idea of eliminating nuclear weapons, cannot base its approach to national interests and international security on such outdated, ideologically-driven diplomatic policies.
- Canada must be supportive of American defence initiatives such as the development of an effective ballistic missile defence system.

### **Responding to the Alliance**

Allow me to respond to these beliefs in light of world developments.