

CANADIANS CALL FOR END TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NATO

MEDIA RELEASE

NATO should rid itself of reliance on nuclear weapons for “security” according to 20 Canadian organizations and over one hundred individuals, many expert in nuclear weapons’ law and policies. The International Court of Justice in 1996 confirmed that all states are obligated under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (the “NPT”) to eliminate all nuclear weapons. Although Canada has retained its “seat at the table” in NATO since the date of that opinion, the signatories to this statement see no evidence of Canada having had success in calling for progress toward nuclear disarmament and an end to NATO’s reliance on nuclear weapons.

NATO’s policies currently include:

- the indefinite retention of nuclear weapons
- the possible first use of nuclear weapons
- the deployment of nuclear weapons in, and plans for their use by non-nuclear weapons states (“nuclear sharing”) and
- continued planning for the use of nuclear weapons.

Thus NATO’s current policies are in absolute contradiction to the obligations undertaken by NATO states within the NPT regime.

Signatories urge the Government of Canada to call on all NATO states to end reliance on nuclear weapons in NATO planning and to develop concrete plans for nuclear disarmament. A Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone for Europe should be considered.

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For full text of the Statement, check www.abolishnuclearweapons.org

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