

CANADIAN NETWORK TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS
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As groups committed to a global ban on nuclear weapons, we object to the US National Missile Defense (NMD) program, and urge the Government of Canada to oppose it. NMD threatens the current international framework of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament agreements, long supported by Canada.

Canada, along with 186 other states, has signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the NPT) and thus undertaken:

"to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament..."

This commitment was reaffirmed by all 187 states in May 2000.

The current US missile defence proposal undermines efforts to ban nuclear weapons because it:

- I. will provoke other nuclear weapons states to counter NMD by building more nuclear weapons rather than keeping their NPT promise to eliminate their nuclear arsenals
- II. will violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, a cornerstone of our international arms control regime
- III. has led US negotiators to encourage Russia to maintain high levels of nuclear weapons on alert, contrary to the spirit of the NPT
- IV. has stalled the negotiation of nuclear disarmament agreements in the UN Conference on Disarmament
- V. has motivated China to state that it will increase its nuclear arsenal and withdraw promises to stop exporting dangerous military technology

The US Space Command's longer term proposal, called "Vision for 2020," is a plan for the US to weaponize space for its own military and commercial purposes, and to deny access to space

to other states. This is a breach of the Outer Space Treaty.

Both US proposals reflect an isolationist approach to security that will hinder international cooperation in responding to threats, especially the nuclear threat. Such unilateral steps by the US antagonize the Governments of Russia and China, build anxiety among our European allies and undermine international security.

We therefore ask the Government of Canada to oppose and speak out against the U.S. National Missile Defense program and object to the US Space Command's Vision for 2020.

This Statement is endorsed by the following groups:

Les Artistes pour la Paix
Canadian Peace Alliance/l'Alliance canadienne pour la paix
Canadian Pugwash Group
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
End the Arms Race
Lawyers for Social Responsibility
Lethbridge Network for Peace
Peace Research Institute - Dundas
Peacefund Canada
Physicians for Global Survival
Project Ploughshares (Canada)
Project Ploughshares Calgary
Project Ploughshares Edmonton
Project Ploughshares Saskatoon
Science for Peace
Toronto Disarmament Network
Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (Canada)
Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (Ontario/Quebec Region)
World Conference on Religion and Peace (Canada)
World Federalists of Canada

For further information, kindly contact Debbie Grisdale, Executive Director, Physicians for Global Survival, (613)233-1982.