

CANADIAN NETWORK TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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September 30, 2005

The Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, MP
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

Dear Sir:

RE: Convening Meetings to Define Legal, Technical and Political Elements required for a Nuclear Weapons-free World

We were pleased to note your call for action at the Conference on Disarmament in March of this year. We are transmitting herewith a Resolution with this operative paragraph:

“We hereby resolve that the Government of Canada should urgently convene international meetings of like-minded states to discuss and define the legal, technical and political elements and processes required for the establishment and maintenance of a nuclear weapons-free world.”

We encourage your Department to urgently develop a focussed strategy for the development of consensus on the legal, technical and political elements required for a nuclear weapons-free world.

This Resolution has the endorsement of the following groups:

- The Bounday Peace Initiative, B.C.
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Canadian Peace Alliance
- Canadian Pugwash Group Executive
- First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
- First United Church, Salmon Arm, BC
- Lawyers for Social Responsibility (Canada)

- Lethbridge Network for Peace
- Ottawa Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends
- Pacific Campaign for Disarmament & Security (PCDS)
- Parkdale United Church Council, Calgary, AB
- Peace and Justice Committee, St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops, BC
- Physicians for Global Survival, Canada
- Polaris Institute, Ottawa
- Project Peacemakers, Winnipeg
- Project Ploughshares (National)
- Project Ploughshares Calgary
- Project Ploughshares Edmonton
- Project Ploughshares Ottawa
- Project Ploughshares Saskatoon
- Salmon Arm Kairos Faith and Justice Committee
- Saskatoon Peace Coalition
- Science for Peace
- St. David's United Church Council, Calgary, AB
- Veterans Against Nuclear Arms Edmonton
- Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, ON-QUE region
- Veterans Against Nuclear Arms Saskatchewan
- World Conference of Religions for Peace Canada
- World Federalists Movement - Canada

We would be grateful to receive your advice on the next steps the government will be taking to encourage the compliance by all states with the legal obligations set forth in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We extend our best wishes to you as you engage in this important work.

Yours sincerely,

Bev Tollefson Delong
Chairperson

cc.

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Urgency of Discussions on Nuclear Weapons RESOLUTION

Noting that Canada, as a party to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, has solemnly undertaken under Article VI “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”;

Recalling that the International Court of Justice, in their Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons of 8 July 1996 concluded that “there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”;

Warned by the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan at the NPT 2005 Review Conference that, while he believes that our generation can “build a world of ever-expanding development, security and human rights”, he is “equally aware that such a world could be put irrevocably beyond our reach by a nuclear catastrophe in one of our great cities”;

Extremely concerned at the failure of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to come to any consensus at the 2005 Review Conference on next steps toward fulfilling their obligations to eliminate nuclear weapons;

Pleased to recall the comments of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on March 14, 2005, where, in noting the obstruction to the adoption of their program of work, he proposed that, failing flexibility among members of the CD with respect to the “negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, the consideration of the state of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the weaponization of outer space” that “other multilateral avenues for addressing them should and need to be explored”;

We hereby resolve that the Government of Canada should urgently convene international meetings of like-minded states to discuss and define the legal, technical and political elements and processes required for the establishment and maintenance of a nuclear weapons-free world.