

Defence Policy Review Unveiled on June 7: ``a waste and misuse of resources``

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 07 June 2017 04:06 - Last Updated Wednesday, 07 June 2017 10:08

Funds must not be for promulgating militarism but for Addressing Climate Change, for promoting `common security, for supporting the Convention on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, and for reallocating, not increasing the military budget

by Joan Russow PhD

Global Compliance Research Project



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As The Doom's Day clock moves to 2 ½ Minutes to Midnight because of threats of climate change and nuclear arms, the discrepancy, in Canada, between funds proposed for militarism to satisfy NATO's demands and those spent to address obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), widens. Rather than doubling the military budget to 2% of GDP, Canada should withdraw from NATO, a nuclear arms alliance that espouses nuclear policies that violate the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), should increase funds to address climate change and discharge obligations under the UNFCCC, and should support, at the UN, a Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Arms.

In December 2016 Canada voted against the UN General Assembly Resolution on the drafting of a Treaty to Abolish nuclear weapons. Canada gave the following explanation for its vote;

“the US nuclear weapons are essential for our security and we have refused to declare that nuclear weapons should never be used”.

It is 2017 CANADA NEEDS TO REDEFINE WHAT CONSTITUTES SECURITY

We must re-appropriate the word "security" and not allow it to be distorted by the military.
(Dr. Ursula Franklin, 1985);

“security exists when all are secure, through “common security” (Olof Palme, 1982) whose objectives could be extended to include but not limited to the following:

(a) Achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses and delegitimization of war;

(b) Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, to housing, to safe drinking water and sanitation , right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system; right to water and sanitation

(c) Ensure the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, to reduce the ecological footprint and to move away from the current model of unsustainable and excessive overconsumption

(d) Enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, energy and transportation, and promote ‘fair and just transition.

CANADA HAS SUPPORTED THE US AND NATO POSITION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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The US has stated that the treaty to ban nuclear weapons would be ineffective, with adverse consequences for security and would hinder the implementation of Article VI of the 1968 non-proliferation Treaty

ARTICLE VI, reads

: “Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes 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, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

It is, rather, NATO`s nuclear policy which contravenes Article VI:

(Murray Thompson, from Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention) outlined NATO`s nuclear policy

- 1) Nuclear weapons must be maintained indefinitely
- 2) We will improve their use and accuracy (modernize them)
- 3) We can use them first.
- 4) We can target non-nuclear weapons states
- 5) We can threaten to use them
- 6) We can keep them in Europe, as we are now doing
- 7) We can launch some on 15 minutes warning.
- 8) We say “they are essential for peace

MILITARY BUDGET: "THE WASTE AND MISUSE OF RESOURCES

Over forty years ago, under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Canada affirmed the following in relation to the military budget: "The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity " (II, 12 Habitat 1 1976)

Since 1992, Joan Russow has been exposing the failure of states to live up to international obligations, and commitments. She will be attending the UN negotiations on a Convention to Abolish Nuclear weapons.

Joan Russow

1230 St Patrick Street

Victoria, BC

V8S 4Y4

250 294 1339

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