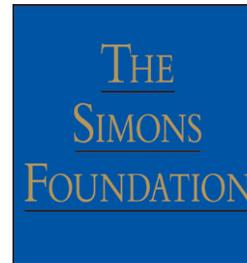


***Submission to Canada's Defence Policy Review
Roundtable April 27th, 2016***



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Canada's ultimate security is contingent upon a peaceful and prosperous, economically viable world order. It is encouraging that Canada will again take up its former role at U.N., will seek a seat on the UN Security Council, will pursue solutions to conflict through diplomacy and multilateral approaches, and participate in UN Peacekeeping missions. Because Canada's defence policy is guided by Foreign Policy diplomatic engagement, conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, should take precedence over military engagement.

There are currently no threats to Canada which would require a military response. Most threats to Canada and its way of life are natural disasters and criminal threats – cyber attacks with an economic motive, human and drug trafficking, external and internal non-state actor terrorist attacks.

On the domestic front Canada should continue its current policies and practices of surveillance and domain awareness, particularly in the Arctic; and participate with civil authorities to focus on issues of public security and protection; i.e., law enforcement to address potential terrorist threats, human, drug and weapons trafficking etc. and to respond to natural disasters, and search and rescue operations.

Canada should continue its cooperation with the United States on intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance, and continue its partnership in NORAD, the joint air command. Canada should continue its co-operation with the US and other Arctic states to strengthen Arctic regional bonds through cooperative security measures such as the Arctic Coast Guard Forum which merges civil and military operations, with the object of attaining full Arctic regional co-operative security. Arctic Security cooperation with Russia - which abides by International Law in the Arctic and poses no threat to Canada – can play a role in lowering the tensions between Russia and the West.

Canada should not participate in BMD. It is extremely costly and its success is essentially unproven. Since 1999, even though the targets were all known in advance, only nine of the seventeen tests of the Ground-based Interceptor system were successful. As well, the threat of a missile attack has grown more slowly than anticipated. Moreover, the latest missile flight tests from Iran (which is no longer considered a nuclear threat) and North Korea have fallen way short of North America so do not pose a current threat.¹

¹ Stephen Pifer, *The Limits of U.S. Missile Defense*, The National Interest. <http://nationalinterest.org>

Furthermore, NATO's Missile Defence plans have played a large part in the destruction of the growing post-Cold War peaceful relations with Russia and is considered one of the causes of Russia's invasion, annexation of the Crimea, destabilization of the Ukraine and the current Russian threat to the Baltic States. As well, Missile Defence has played a part in the developing new arms race. China, for one, feels threatened by the US sea-based anti-missile defenses and is flight-testing a "hypersonic glide vehicle" with a trajectory that "can render missile defenses all but useless."²

Because of the new nuclear arms race and the growing return of the Cold War, Canada would do better to reinvigorate international diplomatic effort to achieve on nuclear disarmament.

Canada's contribution to peace support operations should be focused on prevention and, under the UN mandate, to protect civilians and confront aggressors, training, advising and capacity building, and operations in which Canada's specializes, such as disaster response, surveillance, reconnaissance.

The most effective preventative for conflict is financial aid and Canada has been remiss and negligent in its Overseas Development Assistance – providing only .25% of GDP rather than the UN's proposal of .7%.

Because Canada is a peaceful non-aggressive nation and prioritizes diplomatic solutions over warfare, Canada does not need the full spectrum of operations and should focus on its specific specialized capacity for peace support operations on U.N missions.

Canada would do well to invest in cyber attack prevention systems, and continue its diplomatic contributions to the development of a treaty preventing an arms race in space (PAROS). Investment in unmanned systems such as drones would be useful for intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance of Canada and the Arctic regions. Canada should not invest in armed unmanned systems (killer robots) because they are not compatible with, and currently have no place in, International Humanitarian Law.

Finally, Canada should not invest in Fighter Aircraft. Canada is not under threat and views the purpose of its military as defence forces (in the true meaning of defence). More useful for Canada's air defence role are aircraft suitable for reconnaissance, surveillance and support to civil authorities engaged in law enforcement.

April 21st, 2016

end

² William J. Broad and David E Sanger, *Race for Latest Class of Nuclear Arms Threatens to Revive Cold War*, The New York Times, April 16th, 2016