

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS CANADA**

### **Policy Position Paper**

### **Topic: What is the Main Nuclear Threat Facing Canada?**

#### **Summary of Class Discussion:**

##### ***Issues Identified:***

Canada's security is threatened after nuclear tests in North Korea.

- The implications on Canada of North Korea -US relations.
- Canada's stance on nuclear proliferation and its position as a middle power.
- The impact in Canada of impending arms race in the Asian Pacific region.

##### ***Areas of Consensus/Disagreement:***

Because Canada is a non-nuclear state and maintains a close relationship with the United States not only economically, but also geographically, US' security concerns should also be ours;

- Canada will suffer great physical and economical consequences after a possible nuclear attack against the United States.
- The possession of nuclear weapons by North Korea is causing great tension in the Asian Pacific region, which in turn will affect Canada's economic partners in the region if the conflict escalates further.
- North Korea has gone back on its commitments to the NPT, which shows their direct negligence to the issue. Also North Korea may sell its technology to other states and be an example to other states that are also thinking about quitting their commitment to the NPT.
- It is imperative that any policy proposal should be preceded with a general understanding of Canada's limited influence over other nations.

##### ***Your Response to one of the eDiscussion Questions***

With regards to Canada's response, one thing must be made clear that a nuclear armed North Korea is neither acceptable nor complementary to the security needs of Canada. Therefore Canada's response needs to be firm and aimed at disarming North Korea. However, Canada's response to this threat is an area that also needs further discussion among academics; drawing from discussions in class, we see a positive and an active role for Canada in resolving this situation. There is very little that Canada can do in terms of unilateral actions that could bring about a significant change in the situation. As a middle power, Canada's influence can be best utilized within a multilateral framework. Even though Canada is not part of the six party talks that is aimed at solving the issue, Canada should continue to endorse these efforts. Therefore the recommendation being presented is that Canada adopts a three tiered approach encompassing all avenues including unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral action.

## ***Your Policy Recommendations concerning this question***

### **1. Multilateral**

- ✧ An International Collaboration Arrangement against the Destruction, Disablement and the Redirection of Nuclear materials can be an understanding within a group of states that contribute already towards the Nuclear Proliferation Program (Treaty). Although Canada has been consistent in the Global Partnership Program, this could imply a strict policy with long term consequences for the misuse of Nuclear weapons and breaching the existing NPT. In this policy each member state benefits by a conscious knowledge that another state will not attack, use nuclear weapons on each other, spread nuclear technology and/or generate a nuclear arms program. As simple as this sounds, Canada cannot be the sole participant. An international or a multinational organization has to interpret a role. Once a larger amount of states collaborate, the policy can be taken more seriously. The long term consequences for breaking the policy could imply in the dismissal from a major international organization, such as the UN, which in result will cut into more major difficulties for the state. Such difficulties could be the cut from the International Monetary Fund or any other aid programs provided.
  
- ✧ In regards to North Korea specifically, Canada should further diplomatic talks with Russia, South Korea, China and Japan, state our position on nuclear weapons, and encourage these countries to maintain their hard stance on the North Korea issue. By maintaining open communication and trade with these countries, perhaps they will not feel insecure by the weapons in North Korea and this will hopefully deter any of these nations from partaking in an arms race.
- ✧ While acknowledging Canada's limited influence in this issue, Canada must still play a bigger role in bring the conflicting parties to negotiate with clear stated objectives namely the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear arsenal, and some level of security guarantees from the US to North Korea. To this end Canada can also work to include other concerned parties such as China, South Korea, and Japan.
- ✧ Contain North Korea: while Canada can do little in this matter, it should press North Korea's neighbors as well as the US into containing North Korea. This approach entails two aspects. Contain North Korea from spreading these weapons to terrorist entities, and contain it so it cannot further develop its nuclear delivery capability.

- ✧ Impose UN backed Sanctions particularly in terms of energy flows that could be used to produce nuclear weapons. Canada can play an active role in this matter; Canada should lobby for such a sanction.

## **2. Bilateral**

- ✧ It is imperative for Canada to voice our continued commitment to non-proliferation to the US so that they understand we are on-board with a non-nuclear North Korea. Thus, Canada must engage with the United States and offer diplomatic support and continued dialogue regarding the issue.
- ✧ Canada must reprise its role as a middle power to instigate diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States..
- ✧ Canada must increase its economic and political ties with China to pressure it into harboring tougher sanctions on North Korea. (China has been thus far reluctant in implementing the UN sanctions.)
- ✧ Even though Canada does not have the political, military or economic clout to pressure any party in any meaningful capacity, it can however use its good offices in the region in a bilateral manner to lobby for greater effort in solving the conflict

## **3. Unilateral**

- ✧ Canada must continue to voice its stance and commitment to the NPT to the international community.
- ✧ Canada should work more closely with non-governmental organizations that have interest in promoting human rights in North Korea.
- ✧ Canada should project a more proactive role in the world as a defender of human rights. Its main goal is to educate the global community about the precarious living conditions in North Korea. Canada should turn the global community against the North Korean government through media.