

Summary of recommendations to DFAIT arising from the Brief:
Answers to some of DFAIT's Questions, by Derek Paul, Science for Peace, 15 November 06

The recommendations fall into three groups: 1-6 and 10-12, general threats, nuclear disarmament and general disarmament; 7-9, the NPT and roles of the IAEA; 13-18, landmine clearance and medical assistance to landmine victims.

1. Abandonment in government and in Parliament of the outdated paradigm that accepts war, wastage and consumerism in favour of a new paradigm, suitable to the 21st century, that places the web of life at the fore.
2. Encourage the wide adoption of the new paradigm, as a necessity for the survival of civilization.
3. Work to create a new task force at the UN (or revitalize any existing task force there on terrorism) that would look into countermeasures to terrorism, notably countermyth and/or the creation of new, appropriate myth.
4. Work toward making the sale of dangerous military expertise illegal (criminal) everywhere, and isolating people found guilty of such crime so that they cannot trade their knowledge while incarcerated.
5. Broaden the efforts at nuclear disarmament to include steps toward general disarmament, as called for in Article 6 of the NPT, and work toward reductions of military budgets starting very gradually, and thus toward ending war altogether.
6. Encourage unilateral general disarmament where appropriate, as it evidently was in Costa Rica.
7. Discourage Canadian cooperation with non-nuclear states on nuclear power installation, notwithstanding the demand for such cooperation in Article 4 of the NPT; and convince other states to follow suit.
8. Work toward removing from the IAEA its duty to promote nuclear power.
9. Work toward removing the function of setting radiation protection standards from the IAEA and toward creating a new international organization for that purpose, to operate at arms length from the IAEA, from governments and from the nuclear industry.
10. Persuade the Canadian Government to declare Canada to be a Nuclear Weapon-free Zone.
11. Revisit the NORAD agreement for public debate and clarity.
12. Be aware that three of the main general threats to Canada arise from its close ties to the USA.
13. Assume an even greater role in landmine clearance, and increase the budget for this.
14. Get the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to devote part of its budget to research in landmine clearance, some such avenues of research to be recommended by DFAIT.
15. Collaborate with Cuba in the short term to provide additional medical help for victims of land mines in the Third World.
16. Work toward halting altogether any drain from the Third World to supply qualified physicians or nurses for Canada.
17. Work toward changes in medical education in Canada, so as to graduate more doctors and, if necessary, nurses, the increase to include individuals brought in from Third World and who would be obliged to return to serve their countries after education at Canadian expense.
18. Suggest shortening the total premedical time spent in universities by students of medicine or nursing, as a general economy measure in overall medical education.