

## **The Layton Solution: A Defence Policy for Advancing Human Security**

Canadian Forces should be peacekeepers preventing wars. They should be rapid deployment experts helping people across the planet face emergencies. They should not be fighting wars for George Bush. Unfortunately, the Chretien Liberals have undermined the ability of our once-proud Canadian Forces to make Canada and the world a safer place.

As New Democrats we know the surest way to wider human security is global peace and justice. We believe in cooperative multilateralism and strengthening the United Nations. While George Bush beats the drums of war, Jack is working with New Democrats and Canadians committed to justice and global peace to make sure the Canadian Government joins the United Nations as it promotes global peace and justice, not wars that help George Bush's friends in Big Oil.

Jack knows Canada's effort to help save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, from disasters and the desperate conflicts that breed violent responses, including terrorism, depends on the health of the Canadian Forces. Jack knows we need a strong Canadian Forces and a defence effort with new priorities and new resources for contributing to UN peace operations, for protecting civilians, for preventing armed conflict and for responding rapidly to diverse emergencies at home and abroad.

While the Chretien Liberals 'talk the talk' about multilateralism and peacekeeping, they've done nothing to help our Canadian Forces fulfill these mandates:

- Under the Liberals, the Canadian Forces (CF) went from being a world leader in UN peacekeeping to a relatively minor player. Canada now ranks 31<sup>st</sup> with just over 220 CF personnel deployed to UN peace operations.
- The Liberal Government has repeatedly reneged on its promise to the UN (given on its fiftieth anniversary!!) to contribute to a UN rapid deployment capability. The Liberals have refused to fund the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters it had championed; to earmark CF personnel and equipment for participation in the UN Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) or the Standby High Readiness Brigade for UN operations (SHIRBRIG).
- Under the Liberals, the CF remains a technologically-dependent armed force –with large, irrelevant and expensive weapons systems such as the Leopard Tank and the Upholder submarines-- modeled on a scaled-down version of a major power's army, navy and air force; one that can do a little bit of everything, but not much of anything
- Under the Chretien Liberals, the CF is focusing on bilateral defence arrangements that allow the CF to play a token role in 'big-league', American-led, war-fighting. And the Liberals remain largely silent about the frightening developments associated with American plans for National Missile Defence, for further defence integration, for a new American defence command over Canadian territory (NORTHCOM) or for unilateral, pre-emptive strikes against any perceived adversary.

Under the Liberals, the defence lobby increasingly gets the ear of the government. A complex of military, defence industrial, corporate, media, political and academic lobbyists, is insisting on vast increases in defence spending, a major investment in the Revolution in Military Affairs to ensure interoperability with American Forces and to

acquire the latest in high-tech weapons. Why is Jean Chretien listening to people wanting to prepare Canada to fight future wars with the U.S., instead of dealing with the funding, personnel and equipment shortages the CF faces in fulfilling its UN obligations?

***Jack Layton's NDP will campaign for solutions***

Jack knows Canadians want to help others less fortunate and more vulnerable, at home and abroad. We share a common commitment to advance human security and will work to strengthen the United Nations and a rules-based international system. At this critical juncture, it is also our mission to avoid a more divided, heavily armed and dangerous world.

Rather than attempt to mount the entire symphony orchestra of defence, it is time for Canada to play the instruments it plays best, the ones we can afford and the ones the wider international community has come to expect for advancing human security.

Jack's NDP will:

- Prioritize Canadian Forces participation in UN peace operations;
- Encourage the CF's specialisation in rapid deployment to diverse emergencies;
- Develop a fourth Brigade Group within the Canada's Land Forces to ease the strain on personnel and to ensure CF units are earmarked, prepared and available specifically for UN rapid deployment,
- Identify appropriate means of acquiring or developing strategic air-lift and sea-lift to assist in the transport of Canadian, multinational and UN personnel and resources to emergencies worldwide;
- Initiate new training, doctrine and force generation for operations entailing 'protection of civilians', as well as prevention, management and transformation of armed conflict;
- Expand Canadian and multinational joint training initiatives through the Lester B. Pearson Peacekeeping Training Centre;
- Multi-task elements of each service into joint humanitarian, disaster and environmental response teams;
- Coordinate new initiatives in arms control and disarmament, with an emphasis on stemming proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms;
- Press the NATO allies to abandon nuclear weapons and provocative first-strike policies;
- Maintain continental defence cooperation through NORAD and the Permanent Joint Canada-United States Board on Defence;
- Provide adequate resources for monitoring, patrolling and controlling illegal activities in Canadian territory, airspace and waters;
- Support the development of a dedicated UN Emergency Service, composed of volunteer military, police and civilian elements, recruited globally and employed by the UN; and,
- Encourage an open, transparent and democratic review of Canada's foreign, security and defence policy.