

Beware CANSEC 2009: Canada's Military Exporters and their International Arms Bazaar!

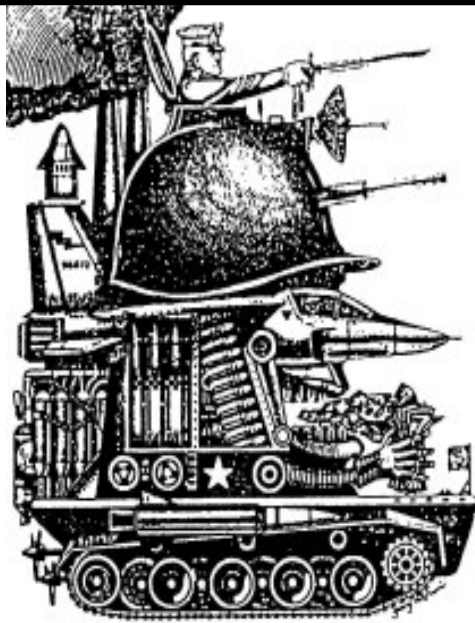
Few realise that Canada is even involved in the international arms trade, let alone that this country is deeply complicit as a top player in this morally reprehensible business. Nevertheless, thousands of largely high-tech companies all across Canada produce military equipment that is now being used to wage wars around the world.

As Canada's largest arms bazaar, CANSEC is the most blatant manifestation of our largely-hidden participation in the global arms trade. As such, CANSEC is a potent symbol of Canada's peculiar brand of hypocrisy – *We preach peace while promoting and profiting from the lucrative business of war and repression.*

Showcasing their wares at Ottawa's arms bazaar this spring will be over 200 of Canada's largest and most profitable military exporters. Many of Canada's top war industries are—not surprisingly—American-owned, and almost all rely heavily on sales to Canada's number one military and economic ally, the United States. Browsing the glitzy CANSEC exhibits will be

CANSEC

is organized by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries. Its 540 members make everything from ammunition, automatic weapons, armoured vehicles, warheads, rockets and missiles, to sophisticated electronic components embedded in U.S. warplanes, warships and main battle tanks. These major weapons systems—used extensively in Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza and other wars—have claimed the lives of countless innocent civilians.



thousands of government buyers and military users not only from Canada and the U.S. but from around the globe. Ottawa, being Canada's base for foreign embassies, is just the locale for this country's largest international military and "security" industry bazaar.

CANSEC is organised by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI). For its efforts in promoting Canada's military exports, CADSI received almost \$200,000 in grants from our federal government between 2006 and 2008. These "contributions" are explicitly earmarked for their "international trade," "export marketing" and "international business development activities."

In 1989, during a high-profile campaign by the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT), Ottawa's City Council passed a near-unanimous Motion banning all future arms exhibitions from municipal property. As a result, no such shows have been held at any City of Ottawa facility in twenty years! Many veteran peace activists will remember when thousands of people—led by former Ottawa Mayor, Marion Dewar—took to the streets in May 1989 to peacefully protest against ARMX, the now-defunct arms bazaar that was then being held at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park exhibition grounds.

Now, Ottawa City Staff claim that due to an unspecified legal technicality, Ottawa's historic ban on arms shows no longer applies to one particular municipal facility, Lansdowne Park! As a result, the CANSEC arms bazaar—a closed, private event—will be hosted by the City of Ottawa at this publicly-funded facility.

- Please join us in calling upon Ottawa Council to honour its historic 1989 ban on hosting international arms shows.
- Spread the word and urge groups to endorse this campaign.
- Stay informed. Visit COAT's website.
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