

Error, re: NORAD's North Warning System and BMD

The previous issue of *Press for Conversion!*, lists many, little-known ways in which Canadian companies, government departments and agencies, as well as military-research scientists employed by the government, are participating in the creation, design, research, development, testing, deployment, maintenance and operation of various “missile defense” weapons systems. However, in researching and writing that issue, I made an error regarding one of the ways in which Canada is involved in this massive weapons program.

While NORAD *does* represent one of the many ways in which Canada *is* involved in “missile defense,” and it *is* true that Canada’s government initiated the change to the NORAD treaty on August 5, 2004, to add “missile defense” functions to

NORAD, the exact manner in which Canada contributes to “missile defense” through NORAD, was stated incorrectly.

The Canadian commitment to “missile defense” via NORAD is to be found in the hundreds of millions of dollars that Canada annually pays for this military pact, as well as the Cana-

dian military personnel working at NORAD facilities, and *not* through NORAD radar in Canada’s north. NORAD’s North Warning System (NWS) of radar facilities, is not used for “missile defense” weapons tracking and targeting. While the NWS *does* detect and track warplanes and *is* used

that this Canadian company is involved in “missile defense” through three sets of contracts: (1) “Canadian NWS,” (2) “Alaskan Radar System” and (3) “U.S. Air Force Space Command’s SSPARS.” The second and third contracts *do* support “missile defense,” but the first item should not have been included.

Four small sidebars also had sentences repeating the same error: “Nasittuq Corp.” (p. 22, first paragraph), “Origins of NORAD’s North Warning System” (p. 24, first paragraph), “NORAD’s ‘Warning’ and Control’ Functions” (p. 13, last paragraph), and “What did Pettigrew know and when did he know it” (p. 19, eighth paragraph). The data in these sidebars is otherwise accurate.

This mistake was a technical one and does not detract from the overall thesis—presented in this and the previous issue of *Press for Conversion!*—that Canada has been contributing to the “missile defense” weapons program *for many years and is still deeply involved in it.*

Peter Nicholson, *The Australian*



in “cruise missile defense,” these radar systems cannot fulfil such roles against intercontinental, ballistic missiles.

The error appeared on p. 22 in an article “ATCO Frontec Corp.” It said

Another error still needs correcting

Many—if not most—Canadians fell for the Liberal government’s public relations campaign on “missile defense” which culminating in late February 2005. That’s when Paul Martin pretended that Canada was rejecting participation in this massive, weapons program. By “just saying no,” the government tried to pull the rug out from under a growing, Canadian movement to oppose “missile defense.” Their strategy succeeded. Canada’s anti-BMD protests immediately slowed to a near standstill.

Predictably, the Liberal government’s propaganda efforts were blindly accepted by the mainstream, corporate media. They parroted the government’s “no” as if it had some tangible basis in reality. Unfortunately, it did not.

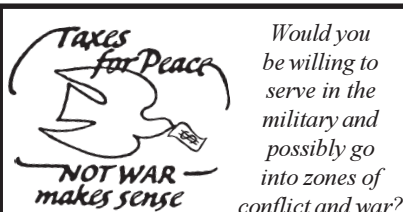
Within 24 hours of the government’s phoney “no,” some peace activists were broadcasting internet messages like “We Win on ‘Missile Defense.’” Such self-congratulatory claims helped lend credence to the govern-

ment’s pretense that it would not join “missile defense.”

The overall effect of such celebrations was to unwittingly help demobilise the anti-BMD movement and undermine the momentum that had been building around this issue.

Some who uncritically accepted the government’s “no” at face value, also spread the message that their “victory” proved that the government was being responsible, accountable and democratic. A danger of this analysis is that some may actually accept the notion that the Liberal government is an ally of the peace movement and that it should therefore be re-elected.

Let’s hope that it will soon become common knowledge—at least within the peace/anti-war movement—that Canada has long been a reliable “missile-defense” partner to the U.S. Only then will it be possible to build opposition to Canada’s multifaceted role in the most extensive, weapons-development program in world history.



If not, why are you willing to pay for it?

Canada supports the rights of conscientious objectors (COs) to not serve in the military.

In the modern world, it is our money that goes to war and military through taxation. COs think of this as “fiscal conscription.”

If you would like more information about the movement to allow Canadians to redirect their military taxes to peaceful purposes, please contact us.

Conscience Canada Inc.
901-70 Mill St.,
Toronto ON M5A 4R1
consciencecanada@sympatico.ca