
The War in Iraq: Another Canadian "No-Means-Yes" Policy in Action

Back in March 2003, then-U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci admitted that Canada was of greater assistance in the US-led war against Iraq "than most of those 46 countries that are fully supporting us."

What? But how can that be? Canada gave a defiant 'no' to the war in Iraq, didn't it? Well, actually, no. While the Liberal government wanted Canadians to believe that they had stood up against the U.S. and opposed the Iraq war/occupation, Canada was (and still is) very much involved.

What's worse, despite the still-prevailing myth that Canada never joined that war, our government, corporations and military are *still* closely collaborating in the U.S. occupation. Here are some ways in which Canada joined the fray.

Fourteen Canadian contributions to the Iraq War/Occupation:

Providing RADARSAT Data: Eagle Vision, a U.S. Air Force mobile ground station—which controls Canada's RADARSAT-1 satellite and downlinks its data—was deployed to the Persian Gulf at the start of the 2003 war against Iraq. A Pentagon source told *Space News*, "It's doing great things... It's working like gangbusters." (See pp.36-38.)

Training Iraqi Police: Dozens of RCMP have been deployed to Jordan to train the Iraqi police force. Canada has given some \$17.5 million for the "Iraq Security Sector" which includes police training and the provision of Canadian advisors to Iraq's Interior Ministry.

Training Iraqi Troops: High-level Canadian military personnel under NATO command joined the "NATO Training Mission in Iraq" to "train the trainers" of Iraqi Security Forces who are on the leading edge of the U.S. occupation. A Canadian colonel, under NATO command, was the chief of staff at the training mission based in Baghdad.

Leading the Coalition Navy: Hundreds of Canadian troops aboard Canada's multibillion dollar warships not only escorted the U.S. fleet through the Persian Gulf on their way to the Iraq war in 2003, they led the war-coalition's navy. This was said to be part of 'Operation Apollo' (a code name for the Afghan war), but it helped put U.S. warships safely in place for their "shock and awe" bombardment of Iraq.

Helping Coordinate the Air War: Canadian military personnel worked aboard U.S. E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) warplanes that directed the electronic air war by coordinating the flight paths of U.S. bombers and fighters in their destructive sorties over Iraq.

Diplomatic Support: Then-Prime Minister Chrétien supported the "right" of the U.S. to invade Iraq, although Kofi Annan said it was an illegal occupation. Chrétien also criticised Canadian citizens who dared to question the war. Chrétien said protesters gave comfort to Saddam Hussein.

Providing War Planners: At least two dozen Canadian war planners working at U.S. Central Command in Florida were transferred to the Persian Gulf in early 2003 to help oversee the complicated logistics of the Iraq war.



"Ironically, the Canadians indirectly provide more support for us in Iraq than most of those 46 countries that are fully supporting us."

Freeing up U.S. Troops: Fifteen thousand Canadian troops, 20 Canadian warships and several Canadian warplanes have helped wage the Afghan war. In fact, Canada has been leading the occupation. Canada's major role was helpful in freeing up U.S. troops for deployment to Iraq.

Providing Airspace & Refuelling: U.S. troop and equipment transport aircraft have flown over Canada to and from the Iraq war and many have refuelled in Newfoundland.

Providing Ground Troops: At least 35 Canadian soldiers were directly under U.S. command, in an 'exchange' capacity, on the ground, during the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Providing Air Transport: At least three Canadian CC-130 military transport planes were listed by the U.S. military as helping supply coalition forces during the Iraq war.

Testing Weapons & Drones: Two types of cruise missiles (AGM-86 and -129) and the "Global Hawk" (RQ-4A) surveillance drone, used in Iraq, were tested over Canada.

Military Exports: Canada annually sells billions of dollars worth of military goods and services to the U.S.. *Press for Conversion!* (#52), identified about 100 Canadian companies selling parts and/or services for major weapons systems used during the current Iraq war. SNC-TEC, a major Quebec-based ammunition manufacturer, has sold millions of bullets to the U.S. military forces that are occupying Iraq.

CPP Investments: Through the Canada Pension Plan, Canadians are forced to invest in the 16 of the world's top 20 war industries. These include arms producers supplying the U.S.-led war/occupation of Iraq, and the leading prime contractors for the "missile defense" weapons program.

Thanks, Canada!

The U.S. has hundreds of Canadian “Stryker” vehicles in Iraq. General Dynamics (GD) Canada in London Ontario, built these Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) and is now fulfilling 75% of the contract to “service, repair and modify”

“265 Stryker vehicles returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom, restoring them to a pre-combat, like-new condition. These vehicles have been in service in Iraq since October 2003, supporting two 3,900-soldier Stryker Brigade Combat Team rotations and accumulating over 6 million miles.”¹

Australia also has Canadian LAVs in Iraq. The photo at right, from a web posting called “Thanks, Canada,”² includes an Australian Broadcasting Corp. article which credited Canada with building “the world’s best equipment.”³



References

1. “\$69M to Reset 265 Stryker ICVs Back from Iraq,” *Defense Industry Daily*, Nov. 8, 2005. <www.defenseindustrydaily.com/2005/11/69m-to-reset-265-stryker-icvs-back-from-iraq/>
2. “Thanks, Canada,” *The Command Post*, Oct. 26, 2004. <www.commandpost.org/2_archives/016230.html>
3. “Colonel says Army training saved soldiers lives,” *ABC News Online*, Oct. 26, 2004. <www.newsaustralia.com>

CPP Investments in the World's Top War Industries

1. Lockheed Martin	USA	\$5,489,000
2. Boeing	USA	\$8,997,000
3. Northrup Grumman	USA	\$5,488,000
4. BAE Systems	UK	\$2,474,000
5. Raytheon	USA	\$4,046,000
6. General Dynamics	USA	\$3,052,000
7. EADS	Netherlands	\$6,513,000
8. Honeywell	USA	\$1,020,000
9. Thales	France	-
10. Halliburton	USA	\$8,842,000
11. Finmeccanica	Italy	\$4,926,000
12. United Technologies	USA	\$8,012,000
13. L-3 Communications	USA	\$2,251,000
14. Science Applications	USA	-
15. Computer Sciences	USA	\$11,116,000
16. DCN	France	-
17. General Electric	USA	\$323,315,000
18. Rolls-Royce	UK	\$1,188,000
19. Mitsubishi HI	Japan	\$90,000
20. Alliant Techsystems	US	-
Total		\$396,819,000

Sources: “Top 100,” *Defense News* <www.defensenews.com> and CPP Investment Board (March 31, 2005). <www.cppib.ca/invest/holdings/pubequity/Non_Canadian_Equity_Holdings.pdf>



“All warfare is based on deception.

When able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must seem inactive.”

Sun Tzu
The Art of War
(circa 490 BC)
Chapter 1: axioms 18,19

Meet “Defence” Minister Gordon O’Connor

While he was Conservative “defense critic,” former Brigadier General O’Connor blasted the Liberal government for pretending that Canada is not involved in “missile defense” or the Iraq war:

“The Prime Minister [Paul Martin] said that his government refused to send Canadian troops to Iraq two years ago and that decision stands. This, of course, is not in concert with the facts. Canada had and has troops serving in Iraq. Is the government embarrassed by their presence? Is that why it says one thing and does another?... The Canadian Forces had and have members serving with allies in Iraq. Some of these members are operating at the highest level of command.”¹

After the Liberal government’s fake “no to missile defense” in February 2005, Stephen Harper repeatedly asked what their “no” actually meant. Both Prime Minister Paul Martin and Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew gave non-answers. Gordon O’Connor then said:

“Regardless of what the Prime Minister now claims, we are irrevocably part of missile defence.”²

Former War-Industry Lobbyist

While O’Connor was a senior consultant at Hill & Knowlton Canada (1996-2004), he was registered to lobby for 27 corporations³ including fifteen that sell military products or services to the government:

Airbus Military	BAE Systems	General Dynamics	Stewart &
Alenia Marconi	Bovar Inc.	Irvin Aerospace	Stevenson
ADGA Group	Brown and Root	PMG Technologies	United Defense
Atlas Elektronik	Galaxy Aerospace	Raytheon Canada	Western Star Trucks

O’Connor says he has no ties to his former clients and will not excuse himself from any decisions about government contracts. When asked how he will be able to avoid conflicts of interest, he said, “Just watch me.”

References

1. *Hansard*, House of Commons Debates, February 8, 2005. <www.parl.gc.ca/38/1/parlbus/chambus/house/debates/052_2005-02-08/han052_1440-e.htm>
2. *Hansard*, House of Commons Debates, February 24, 2005. <www.parl.gc.ca/38/1/parlbus/chambus/house/debates/064_2005-02-24/han064_1420-E.htm>
3. View/Search Public [Lobbyist] Registry, Industry Canada <strategis.ic.gc.ca/cgi-bin/sc_mrksv/lobbyist/bin/lrs.e/view_search.phtml>