

# Canadian Peace Congress

Edmonton Peace Council: #425-70 Woodsmere Close St. Ft. Saskatchewan AB T8L 4R8 Phone: 780-997-2354

Regina Peace Council: 46 Williston Dr. Regina SK S4X 1C4 Phone: 306-949-1222

Winnipeg Contact: 269 Kitson, Winnipeg MB R2H 0Z6 Phone: 204-586-7824

British Columbia Contact: Box 168 Slocan BC V0G 2C0 Phone/fax: 250-355-2669

Website: [www.canadianpeacecongress.ca](http://www.canadianpeacecongress.ca)

Email: [info@canadianpeacecongress.ca](mailto:info@canadianpeacecongress.ca)

<p><b>Interim Executive Canadian Peace Congress</b></p> <p><b>Honorary President Reverend John Hanly Morgan Peterborough ON</b></p> <p><b>Liaison with Canadian Peace Alliance Darrell Rankin Winnipeg MB</b></p> <p><b>Co-Chair Blyth Nuttall Edmonton AB</b></p> <p><b>Co-Chair Peter Gehl Regina SK</b></p> <p><b>Editor Saskatchewan Peace News Cathy Fischer Regina SK</b></p> <p><b>Member Executive World Peace Council Don Currie Slocan BC</b></p>	<p>October 13, 2006</p> <p><b>US Government Seeks Confrontation – The World Wants Peace</b></p> <p>The Canadian Peace Congress calls upon Prime Minister Harper to oppose all proposals for a military attack on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and to work in the UN for a policy of de-escalation of tensions and a diplomatic solution. The way out of the crisis is the resumption of direct talks between the USA and North Korea.</p> <p>Support for President Bush's Korean policy is the road to war. The Bush administration faced with possible defeat in the November Congressional elections, and seeking a pretext to divert world attention from the US debacle in Iraq has seized on a nuclear weapon test by the DPRK and raised it to the level of an international crisis. The US did not threaten war against Pakistan, India and Israel when these states acquired nuclear weapons.</p> <p>The Bush Administration's policy towards the DPRK is regime change. Branding North Korea as part of an "axis of evil", the Bush Administration demands a free hand to punish a member state of the United Nations by economic blockade and war. At the same time, the US administration declares the DPRK has no right to self defense. Given such options, it is not surprising that the DPRK has resorted to nuclear weapons tests.</p> <p>The world needs peace, not another war. The US policy of regime change has resulted in the deaths of 655,000 Iraqis. A nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula would bring untold suffering to the people of both North and South Korea. Nuclear disarmament is the best guarantee of security and the most firm basis for an enduring peace.</p> <p>The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) are important international agreements to prevent the <i>spread</i> of nuclear weapons. To prevent the <i>use</i> of nuclear weapons existing nuclear weapons stock piles must be reduced and eliminated. A powerful and united world wide peace movement is needed to make that happen.</p> <p>The policy of all US administrations has been to maintain nuclear weapons supremacy. The policy was established in August 1945 when President Harry Truman ordered atomic bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Bush Administration continues that policy.</p>
---	--

<p>The Bush Administration withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) to be free of constraints in its Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) program. The ABM treaty is now defunct.</p> <p>The NPT dating from 1968 and signed by 189 states was intended to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons to countries not possessing them and was extended indefinitely in 2003 with a solemn agreement among the major nuclear powers to accelerate efforts to reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons. The US Bush administration backed out of the acceleration commitment.</p> <p>The Clinton administration signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) but the US Republican dominated Senate refused to ratify it because the USA was heavily engaged in the production and testing of tactical nuclear weapons of the bunker busting type which it has plans for using against Iran. The USA has to this day not ratified CTBT.</p> <p>The current frenzy of condemnation of the DPRK by the major nuclear lacks credibility. The USA, Russia, France, Great Britain, China, India and Pakistan and Israel to 1990 conducted 530 nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere or under water and 1,522 tests underground. The USA alone to 1992 conducted 1,032 tests. The 1998 tests by India and Pakistan took place in defiance of the NPT. Israel has conducted secret tests and is reported to have a nuclear stockpile greater than Britain, including the long range missile system to deliver them throughout the Middle East. Nuclear weapons development, testing and deployment by the USA and Israel have proceeded without any IAEA oversight. The use by NATO of depleted uranium in shells and bombs has wreaked havoc on the lives and territory of the former Yugoslavia, and now Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Twelve thousand nuclear war heads are deployed (in active service) with 90% of these weapons in the hands of the USA and Russia. The total of both deployed and non-deployed nuclear weapons number 27,000. Thousands of nuclear weapons are on hair trigger alert defined as readiness to fire as early warning systems activate launch-on-warning. Hair trigger alert is fraught with dangers of false warnings.</p> <p>It is clear to all, except for an ideologically blinded minority, that the DPRK is not decisive in eliminating the nuclear threat from the world. The major nuclear powers are. In the first place, it is the USA and NATO that is driving the current renewal of the nuclear arms race by the development and deployment of BMD and tactical nuclear weapons. The USA maintains a first strike nuclear policy and includes in its military doctrine the use of nuclear weapons against states that do not possess them. The USA deploys nuclear weapons offensively outside its own territory from foreign military bases aimed at states it deems to be adversaries such as the DPRK and Iran.</p> <p>The hue and cry about an alleged threat to the USA by the DPRK drips with hypocrisy. The U.S. has 30,000 troops in South Korea and has recently conducted military maneuvers aimed at the DPRK involving 120,000 US and South Korean forces, armed with nuclear weapons. The people of Korea remember that US General Douglas Macarthur, called for the use of atomic weapons against the DPRK and China, during the Korean war of 1950, a scant five years after President Truman ordered atomic bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Adhering to the</p>
--

	<p>terms of the defeat of Japanese forces in Korea at the end of the war in the Pacific, the USSR withdrew all of its forces from the Korean Peninsula in 1947. The USA is still there, claiming it has “strategic interests” in the area.</p> <p>The USA seeks to prolong its military presence in South Korea to maintain a powerful nuclear equipped military force in proximity to China. The US has nuclear weapons in South Korea, on the US Pacific Fleet and at huge airbases near Tokyo and on the island of Okinawa. The presence of US bases has resulted in large peace movements in both Japan and South Korea demanding the removal of all US military forces from the region.</p> <p>The US is opposed to détente between North and South Korea. The process of North South détente began in 1985 when the DPRK acceded to the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and signed a Joint Declaration with South Korea on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. That process was halted when the US accused the DPRK of engaging in the production of weapons grade plutonium and imposed economic sanctions.</p> <p>Pressure from the Korean people restarted negotiations between DPRK and the USA in 1994 and the DPRK agreed once again to freeze its nuclear program, accede to IAEA inspections, rejoin the NPT and agree to a treaty on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including the dismantling of its nuclear plants. The DPRK demanded formal assurances from the USA that it would not use nuclear threats against the DPRK and the USA would help finance light- water reactors to supply two 1000 MW plants and supply heavy oil to ease the energy needs of the DPRK domestic economy. The agreement would include easing trade restrictions and lead to formal diplomatic relations.</p> <p>The election of the Bush Administration, and its infamous declaration that North Korea was part of an “Axis of Evil” that included Iran and Syria, effectively destroyed the diplomatic process. The USA reneged on its agreements, and the DPRK reverted to a military defensive posture and declared on February 2005 that it possessed nuclear weapons.</p> <p>The Bush policy of regime change, confrontation, nuclear supremacy leads to war. Another policy is needed to achieve peace. The Canadian Peace Congress joins in solidarity with all peace forces who assert that isolation of the DPRK, sanctions, military threats will lead to a deeper crisis and possible nuclear war. The process of negotiations based on respect for the sovereignty and rights and security of the DPRK, can lead to a reduction of tensions and avoidance of conflict. That is what we expect our Government to work for.</p> <p>Don Currie On behalf of the Interim Executive Canadian Peace Congress</p>
--	--