

Defending yourself is never immoral

Opposition leaders have been busy these last two weeks foisting a dangerous hoax on the public. Behind their hysterical, ill-informed opposition to the new U.S.-Canadian air-defence agreement is the following hidden promise: "If we don't dirty our hands with Star Wars, remain military eunuchs and never allow nuclear weapons on Canadian soil, we will never be targets in a war."

This nonsense may impress housewives in Brampton, but to Soviet military planners such ostrich-think is only worthy of contempt. Let's talk some hard, ugly truth.

If a general nuclear war erupts between the U.S. and USSR, Canada will become a target — no matter what our current political alignment, no matter how many Ladas we import. Like it or not, Canadian territory and industry form an integral part of North American strategic geography. Here is the minimum target list in any Soviet nuclear attack: North Bay, Welland, the Niagara Peninsula, Oshawa, Oakville, Windsor, Kitchener, Sarnia, Sudbury and Timmins, Halifax and St. John's, Goose Bay, Alberta oil fields, Vancouver and perhaps even very small weapons for Ottawa and Toronto. Follow-on nuclear attacks would hit hydro facilities, air bases and key defence industries in Quebec and Ontario. These attacks, combined with fallout from American targets, would utterly devastate Canada. What this means, simply, unavoidably, is that Canada must sink or swim with the U.S. Anything that promotes U.S. security equally defends Canada. The only way for Canada to protect itself is by ensuring that the U.S. continues, as it has done for 40 years, to deter war by means of its military power.



ERIC
MARGOLIS

Components made in Canada will surely go into the Star Wars systems. Is Axworthy ready to see Canadian workers fired rather than have them make space-defence components? Does he understand that these factories will be inevitable targets in any nuclear attack?

Thanks to this type of limpthink, Canada today has 6,000 ground-combat troops, a force one-fourth the size of the New York City police department. Switzerland, one-fifth our size, can mobilize 550,000 troops. Now that our obsolete air-defence system needs urgent upgrading, every anti-American pacifist and leftist around is taking the opportunity to attack Brian Mulroney — and Ronald Reagan. As for the Liberals, their cheap shots this past week do them no credit, either as mature leaders or as patriots.

We cannot avoid this reality: If we will not defend the northern edge of North America, the U.S. will reluctantly. And if war does come, no one will have time to worry about polite consultations over deployment of nuclear weapons on our soil. We — as North Americans — will be too busy fighting for our lives. Denouncing U.S. efforts to ensure our defence is irresponsible and morally dishonest. What is the alternative? Withdraw from NATO, complete the unilateral disarmament of Trudeau years, and go neutral? This is the choice. We live in an elephant walk between two superpowers. We either defend ourselves or do not. There is no such thing as semi-defence.

Shall we end up, as the Liberals and NDP would seem to like, a defenceless, peaceful kingdom of smiling civil servants? Perhaps, but we would have to depend then on the goodwill of our Soviet neighbor. Maybe we should ask the Poles and Afghans how well this works.