

The Brooks Bulletin

Getting rid of nukes a concrete strike against terrorists: Kim Campbell

Jennifer Ditchburn, Canadian Press

Published: Tuesday, June 13, 2006

OTTAWA (CP) - Countries might not be able to predict a terrorist attack, but they can ensure dangerous groups can't get their hands on nuclear weapons, says former prime minister Kim Campbell.

Campbell is part of the Middle Powers Initiative, an international group of politicians and thinkers that is pressing the world's nuclear powers to reduce and eventually eliminate their arsenals. Although 180 countries, including Russia and the United States, are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, there are still tens of thousands of warheads around the world, some of them in facilities that are not secure.

"The nuclear proliferation issue is one that we can actually deal with," she said in an interview. "Nuclear materials are traceable and verifiable. We could actually get a hold of this and know that, whatever else terrorist groups got a hold of ...we could keep nukes out of their hands,."

"We can actually do it if there's a will to do it. It's not a hopeless situation."

The group, which is speaking this week to Canadian parliamentarians, encourages countries to remove warheads from their delivery systems, since many of them still operate on hair triggers. And they want to see a ban on the production of fissile materials that can be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Campbell wouldn't comment on the new Conservative government shirking its commitments on another international treaty, the Kyoto Accord, but she did tip her hat at its decision to extend the military mission in Afghanistan.

"It's important to finish the task there," she said. "One of the reasons I did not support the American war in Iraq was because I felt it diverted resources and attention from where the problem really was, and where there was an opportunity to try and establish a reasonably stable government."

Campbell, whose short-lived Conservative government was erased in a 1993 Liberal landslide, also said it was a wise move for the Stephen Harper government to recruit former Liberal David Emerson for the cabinet, in spite of all the criticism.

"It was done for the best of reasons, the reason being the competence of the government and I think Canadians deserve that," she said.

"Partisanship is great, but it's not a religion, it's a way of giving voters choice, but at the end of the day what's important is delivering competent public policy."

Campbell, whose government lasted just over four months, cautioned the Tories that delving into socially conservative policies will hurt them electorally. While she didn't comment directly on the government's decision to axe a national child-care program, she made this point:

"If you look at the countries that have the highest birth rates among the industrial countries, the ones that have the most generous child care have the highest birth rates."

Campbell, 59, now lives part-time in Spain, where she is secretary-general of the international pro-democracy group Club de Madrid. She also travels widely with her composer-musician partner Hershey Felder.

EMBASSY

CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY NEWSWEEKLY

A Nuclear House Call

A Key Treaty Is At Risk of Unraveling

Embassy, June 14th, 2006
EDITORIAL

The new Conservative government of Canada received a house call this week from a delegation led by former Prime Minister Kim Campbell. The callers had that dignified air that comes from lengthy political and diplomatic experience about them. Collectively, they had decades of experience in cabinet, in the House, Senate and in doing the tough diplomatic jobs of hammering out international treaties--not trade treaties but nuclear weapons treaties.

There was nothing wild or radical about this calm, experienced group. But there was more than a hint of desperation about the reason for their visit.

The callers came to remind Canada's government that the world's only existing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agreements were about to crash and burn. In particular, they came to warn that the actual Non-Proliferation Treaty, or "NPT", one of the most hopeful and life-saving agreements to emerge from the Cold War, was rapidly unraveling. Crippled by big hits the treaty has taken recently--including the recent U.S.-India nuclear agreements, a statement by French President Jacques Chirac of the use of nuclear weapons in response to a potential large-scale terrorist attack on France, and the floating of an idea from Washington that nuclear weapons could be used against Iran--the treaty is now in danger of evaporating altogether.

The people who came to Ottawa this week delivering a briefing paper on the NPT from the Middle Powers Initiative have been carefully following these trends over the past several years. Their conclusions are alarming.

What this means for the world, in the words of former U.S. Ambassador Thomas Graham, is the unchecked spread of nuclear weapons into the hands of failing states and extremists, and their regular occurring use against civilian populations in large cities. He says that unless the current trend is reversed, these early years of the 21st century will seem a golden age of peace and security in a bloody, darkened future.

That the group approaches these prospects with an enduring degree of calmness attests to their experience in helping to build a careful framework of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in the first place. They understand how it so slowly and painfully came together in the first place, they can clearly see it coming apart and they know from experience that it can, with goodwill, be rebuilt.

The latter depends entirely on perseverance and hope.

To salvage the deal they must first get the support of people like Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper who can take Canada's credibility to the table in Washington. They want Canada to put its weight behind saving the non-proliferation treaty. And they know that only a friend of the United States can successfully do this.

If the world's largest nuclear power will revive nuclear verification, end production of weapon-grade plutonium and enriched uranium, turn down the nuclear "alert" button and restart a program of nuclear disarmament in the context of an international treaty, the world will follow.

The parent who smokes cigars can't, with any authority, tell his children to give up or forswear smoking. So it is with the U.S., Russia, the UK, France and the other nuclear powers. They must first step up to the plate. Only they have the authority, through their own actions, to stop the unraveling of a treaty that was created to save the world from a nuclear blight.

This week the group of Kim Campbell, Thomas Graham Jr., former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament Doug Roche and Global Security Institute President Jonathan Granoff asked Canada to do four specific things:

- Instruct Canada's diplomats in upholding and implementing the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Start up a treaty to cut-off productions of weapons-grade material and lend Canada's help in verification.
- Work at convincing holdout states to ratify the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.
- Convince all nuclear states to take their weapons off high-alert status and begin verified weapons reductions.

They deserve support and encouragement.

Kim Campbell lobbies for nuclear controls

Former PM returns to Parliament Hill

JEFF SALLOT

OTTAWA -- Former prime minister Kim Campbell returned to Parliament Hill yesterday with some words of warning: Nuclear weapons are still a global threat.

Ms. Campbell, who was, briefly, Canada's first woman prime minister, and the last Tory to hold the post until Stephen Harper's election this year, was in Ottawa in order to lobby on behalf of an international nuclear disarmament group, the Middle Powers Initiative.

In private meetings with Mr. Harper and Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, and also in an appearance before the House of Commons foreign affairs committee, Ms. Campbell urged the government to make nuclear disarmament a high priority, especially in future dealings with the United States.

The nuclear threat did not disappear with the end of the Cold War, she said.

The U.S. and Russia still have more than 20,000 nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert.

Early in U.S. President George W. Bush's first term he seemed ready to tackle nuclear disarmament, Ms. Campbell said.

But his administration's commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was called into doubt by such moves as resuming nuclear co-operation with India, a country that developed its nuclear capability outside the terms of the NPT.

Many political and diplomatic observers in Washington "think this may be one of the worst deals the U.S. has ever done," Ms. Campbell continued.

It highlights the double standard in Washington's dealings with Iran, a country with its own nuclear ambitions.

"Everyone understands it's a double standard," she said.

Mr. Bush is at the point in his second term when he's asking himself what his legacy will be, and according to Ms. Campbell, he may decide he wants to return to the nuclear disarmament work that was begun by his father at the end of the Cold War.

In dealings with the Bush administration, she said, "Canada needs to stay the course" and seek to support the NPT and strengthen it.

She thinks Mr. Harper is still developing his position on arms control, "and rightly so."

Ms. Campbell is secretary general of the Club of Madrid, a group of former heads of government and state who work to promote democracy.

The world according to Kim Campbell

LAWRENCE MARTIN

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Mikhail Gorbachev's startling offer to the United States to begin a three-stage process to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Most everybody, of course, thought it was propaganda. "Tell us another one, Gorby." But the Soviet leader proceeded to demonstrate that he was serious. For a while, he brought Ronald Reagan on board and, for a while, they lit up the galaxy with hope.

Today, you don't want to look. There is no greater terror out there than nuclear arsenals. But they are being stockpiled like beanstalks, and few seem to care. George W. Bush runs roughshod over the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But, yawn, we're so used to this President trashing the treaty system -- he's junked or spurned nine international accords -- that it isn't news any more.

Former prime minister Kim Campbell came to Ottawa this week to try to draw some attention to the issue. She is part of a group, the Middle Powers Initiative, headed by the intrepid former disarmament ambassador Doug Roche, that seeks a nuclear-free world. But nuclear weapons are viewed as a relic of the Cold War. Terrorism is the story. It swamps all headlines.

Ms. Campbell dropped in to see Prime Minister Stephen Harper. With a hundred other issues on his plate, he hasn't had time to look at her one. When he does, she shouldn't expect much. Mr. Harper is not about to go criticizing Mr. Bush -- no matter how many treaties he trashes.

She is 59 now, but Ms. Campbell still has the soft, sparkling eyes of a kid. Our footnote PM is still not afraid to be frank, even with her conservative brethren in power north and south of the border. Sitting in a corner of a dimly lit Ottawa restaurant, she talked of the nuclear threat and of Mr. Bush and Mr. Harper in the context of the harsher conservatism of our times.

Though she credited Mr. Harper with a fine start, she believes his Conservatives, especially in terms of social policy, are to the right of the average Canadian. Being wonderfully experienced in the art of short governance, she issued a warning: They may not last long.

"It was very clear in the last campaign that the Conservative Party tried to put a more centrist or moderate philosophy in the window," said Ms. Campbell. "Now, whether they can continue to do that, I don't know. If they can't and the more socially Conservative

members of the caucus are able to impose an agenda, I don't think they will be able to survive as a government. It will be very, very hard."

Having spent a few years in Los Angeles and Boston, Ms. Campbell now resides in Spain, where she heads up the Club of Madrid, a group of former leaders helping nascent democracies. The distance she keeps from Canada helps soften the scars of the 1993 election, her party's two-seat horror show. She no longer -- or so she claims -- dwells on it.

Being out of the country for so long has made her more appreciative of the values of multilateralism. She's a Conservative, but she kept using a term that is anathema to those on that side of the political spectrum -- "soft power."

"One of the sad things about unilateralism," said Ms. Campbell, a former defence minister, "is that it has in many ways destroyed so much of America's soft power. Soft power is extremely important. It is goodwill that gets you listened to."

She supports the Canadian military effort in Afghanistan, but the chances of Canada and its allies winning there, she said, have been hamstrung by the Bush diversion in Iraq. That war took away the resources necessary to win in Afghanistan. The hard power as displayed in Iraq has made America weaker, she maintained, not stronger.

But it's not all grim out there, said our first and only female prime minister. The Bush Republicans -- and we can only hope she is right on this -- have learned that "being big and powerful is not enough." Even on the issue of nuclear weapons, she sees signs that the President might come to his senses. He and his team seem to be discovering, finally, "that they need the rest of the world."

Disarming by example

POSTED ON 06/15/06

Kim Campbell has a point. The former prime minister was in Ottawa this week to push a favourite cause: nuclear disarmament. She notes that while the world bites its nails over Iran's suspected drive to build a nuclear bomb, very little has been done about the thousands of bombs in the hands of the established nuclear powers -- 27,000 by one estimate, 12,000 of them active. That failure undermines the attempt to stop rogue regimes such as Iran's from getting the Bomb. Why should we get browbeaten about trying to go nuclear, those regimes complain, when the big powers are still nuclear-armed to the teeth? "Everyone agrees it's a double standard," says Ms. Campbell.

When the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty took effect in 1970, the acknowledged nuclear powers struck an implicit deal with the non-nuclear countries: If you refrain from building bombs, we will disarm ourselves over time -- and help you develop peaceful nuclear power to boot. All those who signed the treaty are committed to "general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

When the superpowers were at daggers drawn, they had an excuse for ignoring this commitment. But the Cold War has been over for more than 15 years. Progress over that time has been halting. The United States and Russia agreed in 2002 to reduce their arsenals to between 1,700 and 2,200 each, a reduction of two-thirds. That's still a lot of nukes. In addition to strategic weapons, Russia has thousands, and the United States hundreds, of tactical warheads -- the kind that can be fitted on artillery shells, ship-to-ship missiles and the like. Washington's decision not to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty is another sign of its lukewarm commitment to disarmament.

It's not quite fair to call the nuclear powers hypocrites. They argue that nuclear weapons are far less of a threat in the hands of big, stable countries, all of them on more or less friendly terms, than in the hands of the fanatics who rule Iran or North Korea. That's hard to dispute. But the veteran nuclear powers (the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France) may not always be such pals. What if Washington and Beijing come to blows over Taiwan, for example? And there is always the risk that their nuclear weapons might go off by accident, or fall into the hands of terrorists.

Ms. Campbell's point is that the world would be far safer if the nuclear powers did what they said they would and moved to reduce their arsenals much further. If they did, they would be in a far stronger moral position when confronting the would-be nuclear powers over their dangerous bomb-making schemes.

The London Free Press

Kim Campbell, lobby group seek end of nuclear weapons

Wed, June 14, 2006

By [ALAN FINDLAY](#), FREE PRESS PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

OTTAWA -- Former prime minister Kim Campbell returned to Parliament Hill yesterday with a call for Canada to help stem the threat of nuclear weapons.

Campbell and her colleagues from the Middle Powers Initiative, an international group devoted to the abolition of nuclear weapons, warned the threat of nuclear attack looms as large as ever, despite the end of the Cold War 17 years ago.

"There are still tens of thousands of nuclear warheads on hair-trigger alert," Campbell said at a news conference.

The Middle Powers Initiative was designed to target nations such as Canada that have decided against nuclear weapons yet have significant sway on the international stage.

Campbell said the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty needs to be renewed and strengthened to ensure terrorists and others don't obtain miniaturized nuclear bombs.

The weaponization of space is another issue that needs to be addressed, according to the group.

"Nuclear weapons are still a very important issue and they still present a serious threat to human security," Campbell said.

Campbell's term as prime minister in 1993 ended when the former Progressive Conservative party was nearly wiped off the political map in a general election that returned only two Tories to the Commons.

The London Free Press

OPINION EDITORIALS

Let's keep our Earth alive

In case you missed it, the oddest scrap of news last week came from Stephen Hawking, the renowned English physicist who communicates with a letter-board-rigged computer because he's paralysed by ALS.

Hawking said human beings are making such a botch of things, they had better colonize space, and fast, if they want to survive as a species.

"It is important for the human race to spread out into space for the survival of the species," he said. "Life on Earth is at the ever-increasing risk of being wiped out by a disaster, such as sudden global warming, nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus or other dangers we have not yet thought of."

Hawking, who was greeted like a rock star on a visit to Hong Kong, urged putting a permanent base on the moon in 20 years and one on Mars in 40.

Great. All we have to do is figure out how to grow carrots on Mars.

The idea is science fiction; ludicrous.

But the idea behind the idea is not.

The world is in just as bad shape as Hawking says. The dangers are real. They're immense: - Global warming is already being felt. Young people of today will live to see a world unimaginably transformed -- for the worse. - Just because there hasn't been a nuclear bombing since Nagasaki doesn't mean there won't be another. As former prime minister Kim Campbell pointed out in Ottawa last week, more than 20,000 nuclear warheads remain poised at hair-trigger around the world.

There could be one big Armageddon. Or a "little" nuclear war -- or several, any one of which would make 9/11 pale in comparison.

The priorities of this world are pathetically, perilously cock-eyed. The "war on terror" is all the rage, while polar caps shrink, arms bristle and the population explosion runs unchecked. Oxfam reported last week that 14 billion bullets are produced annually -- two for every person.

Hawking's right. This planet is in big trouble. Real dangers do loom on the horizon. We may be living in the century that sees the end of planet Earth as an inhabitable space.

But the answer isn't to go to the moon. It's to find solutions; to fight, and not go down without a struggle.

Where's the activism that once surrounded civil rights, environmentalism, peace? It's the people who must choose -- choose to do what must be done to keep this planet alive.



Campbell goes nukeless

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The Middle Powers Initiative targets nations such as Canada that have decided against nuclear weapons yet have significant sway on the international stage.

Campbell said the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty needs to be renewed and strengthened. The weaponization of space is another growing issue that needs to be addressed, the group says.