

OTTAWA CITIZEN

Letter to the Editor, Ottawa Citizen. Submitted by members of Physicians for Global Survival, many of whom are G78 members.

April 2007

Dear Editor,

Re: Canada blasts Iran over hostages and Threaten Iran with 'real pain', Blair told, 07/03/31:

These articles raise anxiety about the apparent search for a reason to mount a military attack on Iran. Given that in 2003, our Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, advocated joining the US-UK attack on Iraq, we may be justified in feeling concern that Canada might tag along if the US or UK begins an attack on Iran. At this moment, the US has massive forces on naval vessels in the Persian Gulf. We can only guess at their intentions.

There is a recent history of lies used as pretext for attacks when elites decide on the merits of military action. We saw this played out when Iraq's supposed nuclear weapons program was the pretext for the US-UK attack in 2003. We have no reason to trust what we are told by the governments involved. There have been many signs that the US is looking for an excuse to attack Iran, and the UK has willingly complied with a lie very recently.

International legal conventions and the United Nations oblige governments to resolve disputes peacefully. There is no reason that this dispute should not reach a peaceful solution. A mediator could be helpful.

Resorting to war would be disastrous for Iran, would deepen the catastrophe in Iraq, would present a grave risk to Israel, could create an oil and financial crisis affecting the global economy. Worse still, the US has been suggesting it could use nuclear weapons in such a conflict. This is utterly irresponsible.

Canada's most useful role is not "blasting" anyone, but offering mediation to resolve this dispute, and making it clear to the US and UK that it has no interest in a military confrontation with Iran.

Yours sincerely,

Member of Physicians for Global Survival gathered in Ottawa for a Board meeting.
Dale Dewar. (president), Nancy Covington, Barbara Birkett, Joanna Santa Barbara, Michael Dworkind, Sonia Singh, Sylvia Keet Peebles, Jeannie Rosenberg, Charles King, Wendy Wulff, Andrea Levy, Debbie Grisdale, Jane Maxwell