

NO TO POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS

NOWAR-PAIX condemns the murder of Muammar Gaddafi at the hands of the so-called Libyan rebels. This immoral, illegal and horrifying act is nothing but a planned and minutely executed political assassination. The rebels and NATO ground troops carried out their murderous activity within the overall framework of the NATO bombings and reconnaissance maneuvers by the countries making up the NATO aggression force at this time, including Canada. The Canadian government has taken up where George W. Bush and others had left off, that is, that of acting against the sovereignty of nations and interfering within these nations to incite regime change favorable to their political, economic and military ambitions. An integral part of what has become a *modus operandi* is to demonize specific heads of State, particularly those who have taken or are seeking to take measures which defend their country's resources from foreign pillage or steer free from the unbearable constraints imposed by the hegemony of the US dollar, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, just to name a few.

We are particularly appalled at the fact that within Parliament, too few voices are making themselves heard to say that the Canadian people cannot and will never condone this Harper agenda of shedding even pretenses of building diplomatic relations and of joining in the "Might makes right" crusade of NATO led by the US. This trend was recently confirmed by Canadian Forces Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie in a "Report on Transformation" to the Harper government. In essence, the report calls for spending cuts as far as "non-deployable civilian and military staff" are concerned. On the other hand, the reducing of this "overhead", as it is put in the report, will rather be invested in "input", that is, "protecting and investing in the various systems that result in the people in the ships, battalions and squadrons of aircraft doing the tough and often dangerous work that Canadians are so proud of. In short, we are going to have to reduce the tail of today while investing in the teeth of tomorrow". And what will the Canadian military jaw be biting into? "Most of our allies", Leslie goes on, "are placing an emphasis on capabilities that will yield responsive, adaptive and multi-purpose military forces that are able to project power abroad and participate in a wide range of missions and campaigns for an extended period of time".

This report leaves no doubt as to how the Canadian government under Harper is leading the country down a path of foreign intervention and aggression, abandoning even the slightest pretenses to seeking diplomacy or settling conflicts in ways other than the use of force. As Canadians, we want an armed forces that defends the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, not a mercenary force that is organized to defend the interests of the monopolies around the world, using military might, targeted political assassinations, regime change, etc., as is once again the case in Libya today.