

## **Kim Campbell lobbies for nuclear controls**

### **Former PM returns to Parliament Hill**

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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.