

DECEMBER 2, 1987, CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

I - Birchwood Junior High School, Charlottetown

Approximately 265 students from grades 7-9 attended the 25-minute talk and 40-minute discussion. In general, the questions posed were mature and reasonable and showed a knowledge of the INF Treaty and the Summit. The students were concerned that the momentum generated by the INF treaty be maintained.

II - Montague Rotary Club

Twenty-two Club members were present and the discussion was wide ranging. One member opined that U.N. General Assembly appeared dormant, and asked the Ambassador whether this had changed. Another asked whether it was possible that countries other than the superpowers might commence a nuclear war. A third questioner wondered whether the UN might evolve into an active world government. Two members spoke of the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines with one member asking if they were really necessary.

III - Public Forum, Charlottetown Hotel

The first panelist was Ann Sherman, interim President of the UNAC Branch, and a member of the Island Peace Committee and the Voice of Women. She contended that there were a number of contradictions in Canadian policy, among which was the "fortress USA" mentality of the defence White Paper as opposed to the Canadian tradition of "constructive internationalism". She urged Canada to maintain its support of the UN and indicated that while she was pleased with the findings of the D and D Conference, she thought the business of armaments production had become essential to the world economic system. With this in mind, Mrs. Sherman proposed stricter export controls and an arms register. She applauded the INF argument as an important first step.

Mrs. Jill Wright, a member of the Consultative Group, stated that without disarmament we will have no future. She suggested that Canada reduce its dependence on a security policy of deterrence, and urged Canada to distance itself from American policy. Mrs. Wright recognized that there was no "quick fix", and said that women were particularly familiar with the issues of disarmament as a result of sexism, exploitation and patriarchy.