

a pragmatic, realistic approach to these questions. Canada was seen to be "caught in the middle" of the East-West debate in both geographic and political terms. It was stressed that "politics is the art of the possible, not the impossible" and that Canada's options were limited. Those who advocated a neutralist or non-aligned position for Canada were urged to examine the full implications of such a decision and to consider the benefits in being part of a system which we could then seek to influence from the inside. It was suggested that Canada was "pragmatic in its defence commitments" but not a "militaristic country." Canada was encouraged to continue on its two-track policy which was viewed as being at once practical and philosophical.

In discussing the nature of "security" and the "peace-movement," it was noted that both terms are given rather ethnocentric definitions in the West. In many other parts of the world security was reflected in terms other than nuclear disarmament. For example, in Latin America and Eastern Europe "peace" and "security" were often defined in terms of human rights. In the developing world the preoccupation with security was a preoccupation with the question of basic survival. Thus, in many parts of the world the peace movement and Western definitions of peace and security were viewed as "racist and irrelevant."

In discussing the subject of nuclear weapons it was strongly suggested that "nuclear systems" were irrelevant, futile and obsolete. In practical, military terms they were, in fact, no longer weapons. Thus the case was made to move away from these unusable yet highly dangerous weapons which offered neither security nor military capability, to conventional systems and non-provocative forms of defence.

There was some discussion of the psychological effects of the arms race. It was suggested that the arms race had fostered the development of an "enemy mentality" which fueled fears in order to provide justification for a build-up in arms. It was believed that "fear" derived from the unattainable quest for absolute security and that nations had fallen into the trap of attempting to attain security through the use of ever more sophisticated technology and resources. The SDI was seen as an example of the attempt to solve the problem of the nuclear arms race and to assist the quest for complete security by using technology. It was suggested that there was a need to return to the concept of basic humanity and accept the paradoxes of the world -- including the fact that total security is simply not attainable.