

The problems facing the United States, Canada and the other members of the Western Alliance remained the same: dealing with the military balance in Europe; worrying about what might happen in the Persian Gulf, in the Pacific and elsewhere; and deterring a nuclear attack, *not* trying to defend against one.

## 8. Canada's Role in Strategic Defence

Among the questions considered at the Saturday morning session were the following: What demands would be placed on Canada if the United States decided to implement the technology and policies of strategic defence? Would the priorities of Canadian foreign policy change? Would there be deployment of some strategic defence installations on Canadian territory?

Lawrence Hagen, Research Director at the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, presented a paper which addressed the possibility of a radical change in US policy, moving away from a reliance on the deterrent value of mutual vulnerability, to an emphasis on strategic defence. In such circumstances, Canada's own foreign and defence policies might undergo a profound transformation. Canada's role in the conventional defence of Western Europe might have to be reduced as the defence of North America became predominant. Our role in NORAD\* might develop beyond one of early warning to that of active interdiction. If space-based systems were deployed to defend against ICBMs, Canada's northern territory could become the site of installations for active defence against manned bombers and cruise missiles. There might be greater importance placed on the role of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) to deal with the threat from Soviet submarines in the north-west passage and it was also possible that some ground-based components of the SBBMD systems might have to be placed in Canada. Mr. Hagen predicted that, if any or all of these consequences occurred, Canadian defence decisions would become wholly and unambiguously dictated by US policy. This would give rise to serious political problems since Canadians are already concerned about a potential loss of sovereignty under the pressure of conflicting priorities.

What should Canada do? Of course, some US policy-makers and the supporters of SDI would welcome Canada's full participation in the strategic defence of North America. Canada should be concerned, however, because a "defence-dominant" strategic policy

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\* North American Aerospace Defence Command