

DECEMBER 8, 1987, TORONTO AND HAMILTON, ONT.

I - Fairbank Rotary Club, Toronto

This luncheon was attended by 35 persons. Eight questions were posed, of a wide variety and balance. One questioner wanted to know the history of Canadian reluctance to have nuclear weapons on its soil while another pointed to the assumption that it is only when both sides are strong do we have peace. Two members asked what was being done about non-superpower states who have a nuclear capability. Another questioner found it curious that Canada would play such an active role in disarmament, yet continue to permit the testing of Air Launched Cruise Missiles in Canada.

II - Public Forum, YWCA

The Hon. Robert Stanbury, a former Cabinet Minister and UNAC member, called the INF Agreement a turning point in world history. He described the work of the Hamilton-based MARKLAND group which has been holding private meetings and public seminars on the general subject of Treaty compliance, especially with regard to a Chemical Weapon Convention. Mr. Stanbury also called for more consideration of problems of debt, population and human rights.

Dr. Hannah Newcombe, of the Peace Research Institute, Dundas, recalled the high hopes for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which were prevalent in 1963 when the USA and the USSR signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty. Those hopes did not come to fruition because, in her opinion, the public "fell asleep". She warned the audience to be more vigilant following the INF Treaty and to stay awake and press for more cuts in nuclear weapons. Among her other areas of concern were: (1) what are the INF Treaty provisions with regard to disposal of flammable material and delivery system, (2) continued testing in Canada of ALCM; (3) if a Chemical Weapon Treaty is signed, an international monitoring agency will be necessary, (4) funds saved by disarmament measures ought to be diverted to development, (5) at the UN in New York, there should be a parallel general assembly, composed of representatives of NGOs.

Audience members voiced concerns and comments on a variety of topics. There was a feeling on the part of one person that the two superpowers were being less than honest, and that there ought to be a "mechanism to interfere in the internal affairs of a country" to ensure honesty.