

**STATEMENT MADE BY THE
PRIME MINISTER ON THE
STRATEGIC DEFENCE
INITIATIVE (SDI), IN
OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 7,
1985**

On March 26, 1985 the United States invited Canada and other friendly countries to participate directly in research under the Strategic Defence Initiative.

After careful and detailed consideration the Government of Canada has concluded that Canada's own policies and priorities do not warrant a government-to-government effort in support of SDI research. Although Canada does not intend to participate on a government-to-government basis on the SDI research program, private companies and institutions interested in participating in the program will continue to be free to do so.

As stated in the House of Commons on January 21, 1985, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, this government believes that SDI research by the United States is both consistent with the ABM Treaty and prudent in light of significant advances in Soviet research and deployment of the world's only existing ballistic missile defence system.

I conveyed this decision today to the President of the United States and informed him of this. I had discussed it, as you might imagine, with my caucus and my cabinet. And that is our position with regard to this particular item.