

INTRODUCTION

In October 1985 the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security organized a conference on *Challenges to Deterrence: Doctrines, Technologies and Public Concerns*. The object of this conference was to consider the current debate over the continuing worth of deterrence, a concept which has been challenged, for differing reasons, from both the "left" and the "right". The programme was divided into sessions on the current nuclear arms control proposals in Geneva, the technology of strategic defence, the language of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, Canada's role in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and the question of public access to information. Each topic was addressed by a panel and then discussed in a question and answer period by conference participants.

Members of the media, academics, representatives from non-governmental organizations, and government officials from Canada, the United States and Europe took part in the Conference which began with a keynote address by the Right Honourable Denis Healey, a British member of parliament (See Appendix I), and continued throughout the weekend of 17 to 19 October 1985. One session, dealing with SDI and the legal interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, was co-sponsored by the Canadian Council on International Law. Some of the sessions were held off the record, meaning that members of the press were required to obtain permission from participants to attribute specific remarks to a given speaker. In this report remarks and discussions are organized by topic rather than by the chronological sequence of events. A list of the participants is given in Appendix III.