

The Canadian response must take into account that of other allies. If SDI in the eyes of Canada and other allies seemed to be undermining stability and the chance of arms control, then Canada should be prepared to join with other allies in presenting their views to Washington.

Professor Sokolsky noted that the initial goal of SDI is to protect the land-based strategic missiles of the United States -- the long-range goal is to base security on the denial of a first-strike capability through defence.

In answer to questions, Professor Sokolsky downplayed the effect of the ABM Treaty on the strategic balance. He disputed the view that Canada's international reputation would be significantly affected by any involvement with SDI research.

Conditions should be defined

Professor Dan Middlemiss (Dalhousie University) argued that limited research involvement in SDI was acceptable for the present, but Ottawa should maintain a healthy skepticism toward long-run SDI participation. Professor Middlemiss said Ottawa should establish clearly-defined preconditions for future Canadian participation in SDI testing and deployment.

He urged Canada to reaffirm its support for the Outer Space and ABM treaties and to consider prospects of proceeding with its own more limited military space program should Washington reject its preconditions for SDI participation.

Professor Middlemiss noted the prospect for Canadian influence over U.S. policy was greater inside the SDI framework than outside it. The test would come when Canada was asked to sign an agreement concerning the use of Canadian territory; that was the point at which preconditions should be imposed --