

program. Unless the Americans proceeded with their SDI plan, the U.S. could be left behind.

#### Aim for some benefits

Professor Albert Legault (Laval University) submitted that Canada should try to reap some technological benefits from the program. "Whether or not Canada participates, the U.S. will take whatever measures it believes are necessary for its own security," he testified.

#### Alternative research

Professor Michael Fortmann (University of Montreal) suggested Canada sponsor modest, non-aggressive forms of research such as developing alert systems rather than laser weapons.

Professor Fortmann judged on the basis of conversations with officials in Washington that Canada's credit in Washington was not high. "The Pentagon does not trust us very much. We are not a 'leakproof country', as they put it. So they would not want to give us a big role in any case."

#### Nuclear winter threat cited

Conseil Québécois de la Paix warned of escalation of the arms race and the terrors of a "nuclear winter." The group said that SDI has become the principal obstacle blocking the success of disarmament negotiations in Geneva and that if the program were allowed to proceed, it would harm world security as each side struggled to put their instruments into space.

The group quoted several scientific experts who said that a nuclear war based in space could easily start by accident and that even a "limited" war would create dust storms, plunging temperatures and other terrors that would make survival impossible.