

programme, insofar as they were allowed under the limits of the ABM Treaty.

On 7 September 1985, Canada refused the offer of government-to-government participation in the research programme but left open the possibility that private companies could compete for SDI contracts. The Canadian Government has expressed its belief that while it does not want to get involved directly in SDI research, it is only prudent to have some such research pursued in the West. The Canadian view was elaborated in March 1987 following the Nitze visit:

Canada has expressed its support for the Strategic Defence Initiative research program as a prudent measure in light of significant similar Soviet activity in the field of ballistic missile defence. We believe, however, that any transition to a greater dependence on strategic defences should be undertaken on a mutually agreed basis by both superpowers and should be combined with significant reductions in strategic offensive forces....[T]he SDI program should continue to be pursued within the current restrictive interpretation of the ABM Treaty. We welcome the assurance by Secretary of State Shultz that the USA Administration considers premature any decision on deployment of a ballistic missile defence at this point.<sup>2</sup>

In his speech before a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly in Quebec City in May 1987, Prime Minister Mulroney stated that strategic defences must meet the criteria that were outlined previously by Mr. Nitze--cost effectiveness, survivability, and affordability--along with two other criteria: "extreme care must be taken to ensure that defences are not integrated with existing forces in such a way as to create fears of a first strike" and "we cannot allow strategic defences to undermine the

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<sup>2</sup> DEA Statement 87/14, 5 March 1987.