

Nothing could be more dangerous than an unreliable system of massive complexity functioning all the time. The prospect of accidental activation would be real. Critical satellites would be threatened if SDI were triggered in this way.

Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (Ken Lewis, President) said participation in the SDI research phase is so logical that opposition can stand only on emotional grounds. This was not surprising because the media turned SDI into "Star Wars". "Largely overlooked is the fact that we have been asked to participate in strategic defence research only, to pursue answers to questions raised by the concept."

Mr. Lewis summarized as follows the "principal considerations" that lead the Association to favour participation in the research program:

1. The overall conceptual aim of SDI is to enhance deterrence by offsetting reliance on offensive systems to maintain the peace with less dangerous defensive systems on both sides. This conceptual objective is honourable and in keeping with Canada's position as a strong proponent of peace.
2. The U.S. has committed itself to carrying out SDI research within the constraints of its treaties with the Soviet Union, including the ABM Treaty.
3. The SDI concept may not prove feasible technically or strategically. The purpose of the research phase is to find out if it is.
4. The invitation is to participate in the research phase only of SDI. Canada has the right to decline to participate in development and deployment. Canada's posi-