

Bid for nuclear superiority

Toronto Disarmament Network (presented by members Robert Penner, Steve Shallhorn and Wendy Wright) said the SDI research phase is not a defensive system, but a bid for nuclear superiority as part of development of first-strike capability.

There was another option in strategic thinking, namely arms control. The network said verification is not a problem because if technology can be invested in space weapons, it can also resolve challenges in verification.

Territorial sovereignty was also viewed as an important issue. Canadian territory may be required for full deployment of the SDI system.

A decision to become involved would affect other future policy decisions even more widespread than is currently speculated. The Network said SDI is more than a research program because the U.S. would not invest nearly so much money in research without reaping the benefits of development.

Non-nuclear co-operation only

Professor Adam Bromke (Department of Political Science, McMaster University), speaking on his own behalf, recommended Canada reject the U.S. invitation to participate. He also recommended that military co-operation with the United States should continue in non-nuclear matters only; that Canadian influence be directed towards pressing the Soviets and the Americans to reach a nuclear arms control agreement; and that Canada participate in all projects pertaining to the peaceful exploration of space with a view to obtaining indispensable technology.