

In the United States, recently, pressure has increased on the Reagan Administration for greater flexibility in its position on SDI. Congress has consistently cut back proposed budget appropriations for SDI research. Congress has also continued to insist that spending that does occur on SDI-related projects must be kept within the confines of the narrow interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

### Current Canadian Position

The Government of Canada has declared that it is in favour of the narrow interpretation of the ABM Treaty. Following a meeting with Mr. Paul Nitze, Special Advisor to President Reagan on arms control issues, on 5 March 1987, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark stated the Canadian position:

The Canadian Government has consistently supported the USA in its adherence to the strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty. Any move to a broader interpretation could have significant political and strategic ramifications for international stability and security....Any unilateral action by either party to the Treaty that could have a negative impact on the current strategic balance would be regarded by Canada with profound concern.<sup>1</sup>

On 26 March 1985, Canada and the other NATO allies, as well as Australia, Japan and Israel, received a letter from US Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger. Weinberger reassured US allies that they were to be included in the benefits of the SDI programme and the decision-making process, and invited them to become participants in the research stage of the

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<sup>1</sup> DEA Statement 87/14, 5 March 1987.