

DECEMBER 14, 1987, VANCOUVER, B.C.

I - Vancouver Technical High School

Approximately 100 students posed eight questions in a 40-minute session. Questions were wide ranging and included why Canada permitted cruise missile testing in Canada and what the youth of today could do to ensure a peaceful future.

II - Public Forum, Vancouver Planetarium

The first panelist, Dr. Donald Ross, a member of the Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (CPPNW), disagreed with Ambassador Roche's view that security and technology offer an answer to the future, arguing that in fact they have led us to the mess we are in. We need a definition of the function of the military in defensive terms. Dr. Don Munton, of the University of British Columbia, spoke of the results of a public opinion survey which he recently had had conducted, the major conclusions of which were (1) USSR is not regarded as the major threat to world peace. (He pointed out that this finding was at variance with the DND White Paper). Canadians are concerned about the dynamic of the super-power relationship. (2) Canadians are equally nervous about the politics of USA/USSR. (3) If a nuclear war occurs, even by accident, USA/USSR will be responsible. (4) There should be radical reductions in nuclear weapons. (5) Canadians should continue to work for a CTB. There is also a perception among Canadians that in foreign policy matters, we follow the USA too closely. Dr. Munton also mentioned that, contrary to what was being reported in the media, Canada is quite interested in the USSR suggestion of an Arctic zone of peace and had asked Moscow for clarification in a number of areas.

The DND White Paper once again attracted questions and negative comments with some contending that its contents are in conflict with Canada's foreign policy. Opposition to Canada permitting the USA to test cruise missiles in Canada was expressed as was the decision to purchase nuclear-powered submarines. One person suggested that the submarines should be used as freighters to transport oil from the Arctic. Others thanked Ambassador Roche for his work and for his exercise of a reasonable approach to ACD.