

verification, and in particular, an international monitoring agency.

Opposition based on waste

Coalition of Canadian Women's Groups: International Peace Conference summarized the results of the conference at Mount Saint Vincent University in June 1985 in which the plenary session expressed its clear opposition to Canadian government participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative. The conference said the women delegates believed Canada's defence and security are threatened by SDI. Secondly, rejection of SDI was based on the enormous waste of resources which should be devoted to development of a more stable and balanced social and economic order within a more sustainable international economic and political order.

Escalation of arms race feared

Voice of Women (Dr. Gillian Thomas and others) warned against acceptance of any invitation from the U.S. to participate in SDI research. SDI, the organization warned, could precipitate a further escalation of the arms race, threaten Canada's national security and could result in the militarization of space and the economy.

On the technical side alone, such participation would open the way to costly errors and make decision-making in moments of crisis totally computer-dependent.

Dr. Thomas contended that SDI research was already under way in Canada and that it was difficult for the government to control it. However, for Canada to associate itself with SDI would be a radical change in its foreign policy. The government should therefore oppose the militarization of space, stop funding all