

DECEMBER 4, 1987, SAINT JOHN, N.B.

I - University of New Brunswick, Saint John

This meeting was chaired by Dr. George Betts of the Department of Political Science, who asked Mr. Roche to speak on the United Nations in general. In attendance were political science students, members of the local CIIA and UNAC branches and faculty members. Questions posed were related to the value of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ), the working relationship between Ambassadors Lewis and Roche, the financial state of the UN, and whether the USA was attempting to destroy that institution.

II - Public Forum, Keddy's Motor Hotel

Mrs. Judith Meinert, of the Consultative Group, was of the opinion that the USA-USSR INF Agreement was a good one and that we ought to take advantage of the USSR policy of glasnost. She suggested that Canada ought to press the USA to eliminate the air-launched cruise missile as well as the ground-launched cruise. Canada ought to become more involved in humanitarian issues, she said, and called for Canada to send peacekeeping forces to Central America. Mrs. Meinert then wondered whether Canada should maintain its membership in NATO, an alliance which reserves a first-strike prerogative. [It is worthy of note that the declared NATO policy of not being the first to use weapons is not widely known, or if known is not understood, or if understood not believed. Many Canadians are of the belief that NATO has plans to start a war with the USSR, and to start it by means of a first strike. There is also little understanding of the two terms "first strike" or "first use" or their differences with one another.] She then severely criticized the DND White Paper. In her opinion, (1) the cost of procuring nuclear-powered submarines had not been determined, and in any event, it would be too high; (2) purchase of nuclear-powered submarines would contravene the Non-Proliferation Treaty; (3) the "cold war" rhetoric of the DND White Paper is unsuitable. Further, she enquired as to why so few women were involved in the ACD decision-making process. Mrs. Meinert was critical of the fact that the Saint John Drydock was used to build frigates for the Canadian Forces.

Mr. Eric Teed, former Mayor and MLA, contended that there was a difference between disarmament and peace and that disarmament measures ought to encompass more non-accumulation