

SDI contracts. Of the allies contacted by the US, five nations--the United Kingdom, West Germany, Italy, Israel, and Japan -- did sign Memoranda of Understanding to participate in SDI.

The Canadian Government has repeatedly expressed its belief that while it does not want to get involved directly in SDI research, it is only prudent to have some such research pursued in the West. This view was elaborated by External Affairs Minister Clark on 5 March 1987, following a meeting with Paul Nitze, Special Advisor to President Reagan on arms control issues. Having expressed Canadian support for continued US adherence to the narrow interpretation of the ABM Treaty, Mr. Clark stated:

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.

He went on to say:

Canada has expressed its support for the Strategic Defence Initiative research program as a prudent measure in light of significant similar Soviet activity in the field of ballistic missile defence. We believe, however, that any transition to a greater dependence on strategic defences should be undertaken on a mutually agreed basis by both superpowers and should be combined with significant reductions in strategic offensive forces....[The] SDI program should continue to be pursued within the current restrictive interpretation of the ABM Treaty.⁴

Assurances from Mr. Shultz that the US considered premature any decision to deploy a ballistic missile defence were welcomed by the Canadian Government.

In a speech before a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly in Quebec City in May 1987, Prime Minister Mulroney stated that strategic defences must meet criteria that had been outlined previously by Mr. Nitze -- cost effectiveness, survivability, and affordability -- along with two other criteria: "extreme care must be taken to ensure that defences are not integrated with existing forces in such a way as to create fears of a first strike" and "we cannot allow strategic defences to undermine the arms control process...."⁵

According to a United States General Accounting Office report issued in February 1990, Canadian companies, as of 31 March 1989, had received four of the sixty-seven SDI contracts awarded to foreign firms.⁶ The total value of the Canadian contracts was US\$1.9 million. In addition, Canadian firms had been awarded six SDI subcontracts worth US\$775,000.⁷

⁴ Department of External Affairs *Statement* 87/14, 5 March 1987, p. 2.

⁵ Office of the Prime Minister, "Notes for an Address before the North Atlantic Assembly," 23 May 1987, p. 3.

⁶ United States General Accounting Office, *Strategic Defense Initiative Program: Extent of Foreign Participation* (Report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives), February 1990, p. 11.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 29.