DECEMBER 11, 1987, CALGARY, ALBERTA

I - Calgary West Rotary Club

70 members were in attendance and the four questions tended to be wide ranging. One member asked about general "health" of the UN system while another asked how we address the problem of nuclear weaponry in less stable states.

II - Public Forum, University of Calgary

The first panelist, Dr. James Kealey, of the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary, cautioned observers not to overlook the limited nature of the INF agreement and the issues which it raises. Specifically, he referred to the fact that the treaty removed only one small class of weapons, that targets still remained in Europe, and that the question of conventional balance had not been resolved. He pointed out that in terms of future agreements there will be a change in the U.S. Presidency and General Secretary Gorbachev will face opposition in the Politburo. He concluded by stating that "positive peace" required substantial agreement on notions of peace.

The second panelist, Beverley Delong of Project Ploughshares and the Consultative Group, expressed general support for the work of the Ambassador for Disarmament but outlined a number of perceived inconsistencies in government policy - failure to work to reduce the nuclear threat, and indeed continuing to condone first use through our membership in NATO, perpetuation of the concept of nuclear deterrence and our failure to cease cruise missile testing in Canada in light of the INF Agreement. In addition, Ms. Delong faults Canada's decision to continue cruise testing, which is a class of weapon difficult to verify, and in general our decision to provide only $1,000,000 dollars for the verification of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Chemical Weapons Treaty and Outer Space Treaty. She also finds contradiction in our professed policy of wishing to build East-West stability when we plan to purchase nuclear submarines and allow NATO pilots to continue low level flight testing over Labrador, and our perceived unwillingness to respond to the Soviet offer of talks on confidence-building measures in the Arctic.