

As a result, he urged Canada to decline to participate in SDI programs and strive instead to influence the great powers to negotiate meaningfully at Geneva for the reduction of nuclear arsenals.

Professor Sobrino deplored the fact that the Canadian government had not consulted the Canadian professional community by requesting the creation of an independent body of Canadian scientists and engineers to serve as an advisory panel on the implications of SDI.

Strategic step for peace

Canadian Conservative Publishers (William Campbell and Richard Melchin) argued that SDI was strategically necessary to deter a pre-emptive first strike by the Soviet Union.

Canada's security would be enhanced by participating in the SDI and in the long run would enhance the world's prospects for peace. SDI was "the most vital strategic step toward enhancing and ensuring peace that the current generation had yet witnessed."

SDI was a totally defensive, non-nuclear system. Those nations that endorsed it were acting morally to improve their ability for self-defence.

Canadian initiative for arms control

Physicians for Social Responsibility (B.C. Chapter - Dr. Julius Stoller, D.M. Goresky): The physicians' group, part of the Canadian Medical Coalition for Prevention of Nuclear War, urged Ottawa not to participate or sanction participation by Canadian universities or companies in the SDI. Instead, the group advocated a major Canadian initiative to promote nuclear arms control.