

fabricating facilities, and still leave it possible to retain its position in other world markets.

## STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

Discussion of the U.S.-conceived Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) before the committee split among those who directly opposed Canada's participation in SDI and those who advocated co-operating in the strategy as a positive measure. Others were wary of the implications for Canada, even in the research phase, and suggested Canada might participate only under highly defined and restrictive guidelines.

Halifax, July 16, 1985

Destabilization factor

Veterans for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament (C.G. Gifford and others) contended that SDI would not work with the necessary hundred per cent reliability. A partially effective defence, however, would be a destabilizing factor because the other side would perceive it as an added threat.

SDI, the organization said, masked a bid for U.S. dominance and was the ultimate tool to encourage complacency about the arms race. Canada should work towards a treaty banning space weapons, a comprehensive test ban and a nuclear freeze.

The veterans' group represents 400 men and women whose ranks before retirement ranged from private to general.

In discussion, Mr. Gifford, national chairman of the group, urged Canada to join with other middle powers in more aggressive diplomacy in terms of imaginative proposals for arms control --