

Waterloo U's to study soviets

WATERLOO (ISIS) — The University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University will jointly establish a centre for Soviet Studies with the help of an unlikely source — the Department of National Defence.

While the Waterloo-Laurier Centre for Soviet Studies, as it will be officially named, received a \$225,000 grant from DND this past January, the designated director of the project and UW Political Science professor John Jaworsky emphasizes "there are very few strings attached."

He notes those involved would-

n't have applied for the grant if they thought their studies had to be strictly militarily oriented.

Joyce Agnew, an analyst for DND's Directorate of Public Policy, also assures that the grant is not tied in any way nor is the research going to be used for any particular purpose.

Rather, the programme is intended only to heighten awareness and stimulate research in all areas of Soviet society.

Jaworsky stresses "nobody involved with the centre has voiced any concerns" over the source of the funding. However, some of

his fellow professors have expressed apprehension about the defence department's involvement but are waiting for clarification on the centre's activities before voicing any objections.

Jaworsky feels the centre is important since "there is a need for a high level of expertise concerning Eastern Europe" in Canada and only Carleton University and the University of Toronto have Soviet study programs presently.

He estimates there are between 20 and 30 persons interested in the project who currently teach

or conduct research in the area of Soviet bloc affairs.

He points out that the centre will be taking a broad approach to its research because "so many factors now influence potential military strategies" such as nationality issues, economics, political developments and changes in Soviet society.

One of the plans for the centre involves establishing a visiting professorship where an outside professor, perhaps from the Soviet Union, would conduct research and teach a course in their area of expertise.

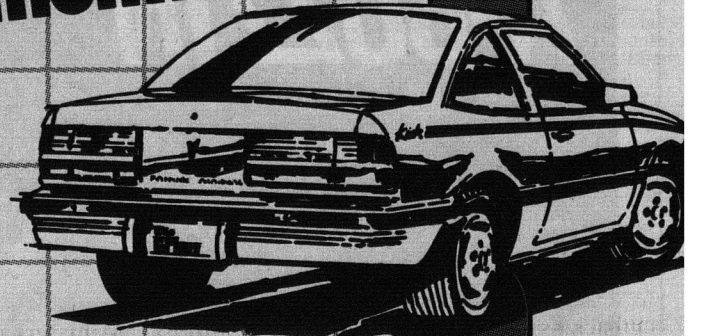
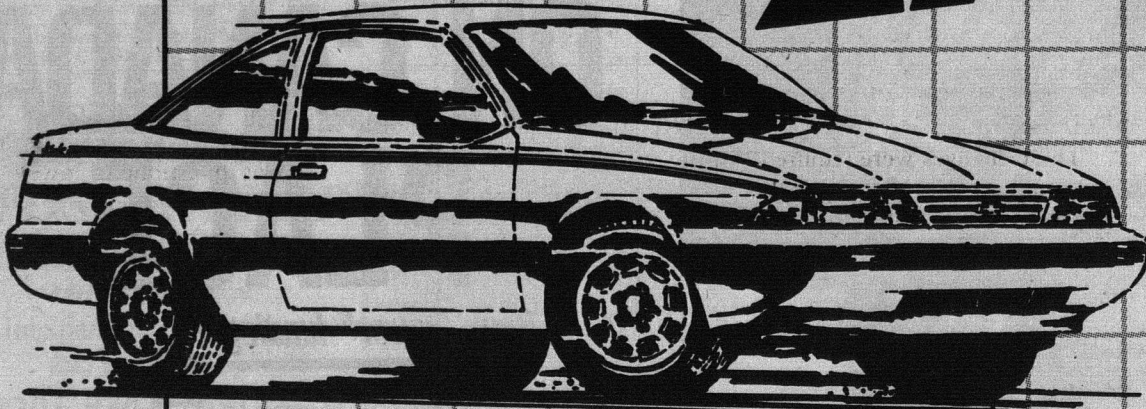
Jaworsky also believes this would provide an opportunity for a direct exchange of ideas between scholars without the

burden of government bureaucracy.

Some other proposed projects include setting up a satellite dish to receive Soviet television, beefing up library resources, increasing the number of experts in Soviet studies invited to speak at UW. Jaworsky also feels this is a chance "to develop a strong undergraduate option in Soviet studies."

The centre will examine a different aspect of Soviet and East European society each year including nationality issues, perceptions of war, Soviet-East European relations, urban-rural dichotomies and the military dimensions of the Soviet economy.

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