

Churches oppose participation

Canadian Council of Churches (Ernie Regehr) rejected Canadian public or private participation in SDI, including the research phase. The Council used the analogy that a strong shield (nuclear defence) gives rise to even stronger swords (first-strike offence), leading to further escalation of the nuclear arms race.

Further, the Council objected to SDI because of the potential threat to sovereignty: Canadian territory would be required for full deployment of U.S. strategic defence forces. To participate in the research phase, they contended, would make it difficult for Canada to say "no" to deployment in Canada's North.

The Council endorsed Project Ploughshares' Ottawa presentation. Both organizations suggested the only acceptable way for Canada to participate would be to have the entire project under the aegis of the United Nations.

Treaties would be jeopardized

Science for Peace (presented by the scientific organization's President, Anatol Rapoport, University College, University of Toronto). "Canada ought not to associate itself with the program outlined in SDI under any circumstances." The U.S., according to Mr. Rapoport, is struggling for the achievement of global superiority through technical solutions. The question of how a war should be fought obscures the question of "why" in the psyche of the American decision-maker.

In addition to jeopardizing arms control negotiations, SDI would abrogate the Non-Proliferation Treaty and ABM Treaty. "The objective of SDI amounts to forcing unilateral disarmament on the