

Deny territorial access

Project Ploughshares (Simon Rosenblum and Bonnie Greene) recommended that Canada withdraw its support for SDI; that Canada decline participation in research and development; that it refuse to spend any special funds for SDI-related research; that it prohibit the use of funds from existing pockets of money or funding programs for SDI-related research; and that it prohibit Canadian industrial participation in SDI-related work. This would require a system of export permits regulating Canadian access to U.S. military contracts. Canada should also reconfirm its support for the ABM Treaty and seek other means of industrial and technological development as a course of industrial strategy in Canada.

Mr. Rosenblum said SDI is technologically unfeasible, undefendable, and would be strategically destabilizing. The program already went beyond research because President Reagan has mandated the U.S. Defense Department to "demonstrate" defensive weapon technology. The fundamental question was what Canada could do to persuade the U.S. not to continue the program.

Ms. Greene said an alternative for Canada in enhancing security would be to use northern space as an early warning system to provide confidence and to assure both the Soviets and the Americans that a pre-emptive nuclear strike would be futile. Addressing the jobs creation question, she said not all jobs are desirable, and they are not necessarily effective in developing Canadian industrial strategy. Funds spent in non-military ways might be equally well used. "What concerns us about this proposal is that it is out of sync with what we have traditionally stood for in Canada. We have always argued for finding political means rather than military or technological means."