

"A nuclear winter in the wake of a major nuclear exchange appears to be a formidable threat. If calculations are correct -- and the Committee believes them credible -- temperatures in the interior of continents will plunge by many degrees after the exchange, probably far below freezing in many mid-latitude areas. Severe damage or destruction will ensue for crops and vegetation. The winter will last for some weeks to several months, and will have lasting repercussions."

The Committee of the Royal Society determined that the Nuclear Winter findings added new dimensions to established strategic thinking, and enumerated their own list of "Strategic Considerations" which included the following:

- The environmental impact of a major nuclear exchange would be global. No country would be immune;
- Nuclear Winter would imperil the food and drinking water supplies of all survivors in mid-latitude nations, and probably the whole world;
- There would be few spectators in a major nuclear exchange; non-combattant nations would be the helpless victims of a nuclear winter, just as would the combattants;
- Even if spared direct attack, there would be major damage to Canada's forests, fisheries and agriculture;
- The USSR would also be extremely vulnerable to the effects of a major nuclear exchange. Soviet agriculture, already very sensitive to drought and frost, could not survive a nuclear winter.

With respect to Canada, the report stated that:

- Canadian agriculture would be severely affected;
- Canadian forests would be vulnerable to radiation damage from fallout and could suffer extensive fire damage;
- There could be damage to ocean eco-systems and fisheries, including a possible loss of fisheries and non-commercial fish within two to six months.