

He added that Canada should avoid taking an official stand or formal agreement on participating in the project before essential details of collaboration were worked out and before (if possible) a substantial consensus among NATO allies has been established. He also said a full foreign and defence policy review would be essential before making a final commitment.

Ottawa, August 8, 1985

'Not a penny'

The Confederation of National Trade Unions said that the Canadian government on moral and responsible grounds should not give a single penny to support SDI research.

The CSN attacked Mr. Clark's discussion paper, saying it was full of propaganda designed to make the Americans look like the "good guys" and the USSR the "bad guys" when the American government and CIA commit many of the same atrocities as the Soviets.

The CSN was angry that the Canadian government wished to increase its defence budget. Billions of dollars go to buy arms, and fighter aircraft and uniforms to appeal to "the vanity of generals while famine persists in many countries. And we call ourselves civilized."

As for Canada's research position in SDI, the CSN was skeptical about the number of jobs SDI would provide and wanted more details and statistics.

The best thing for Canada would be to opt for a neutral position and try to work the two powers towards constructive peace talks. The CSN said "reducing military expense is not becoming a military power in decline (as is stated in the Green Paper) it's becoming a power for disarmament, peace and justice."