

Production Sharing Arrangements. Instead, Canada should stress the importance of restricting ballistic missile defence research to the minimum level required to match Soviet progress.

The UBC group said SDI would accelerate the arms race and in the long run violate the ABM Treaty. SDI's technical feasibility was dubious and jobs involved would be small in number and draw valued scientists away from other tasks.

Moreover, participation would not gain Canada greater influence with the U.S.; instead, future involvement would likely be taken for granted and meanwhile international respect for Canada would be diminished.

Nuclear dangers masked

Professor Luis Sobrino (UBC) noted that the only technically realistic prospect within the foreseeable future that the SDI program offers is a partial defence against ballistic missiles. Such partial defence would have extremely deleterious effects on strategic stability even before it was deployed, Professor Sobrino said.

If the Soviet Union perceived that the U.S. had the intention of developing such a defence, it would in all probability react by launching an extensive strategic arms build-up. It might proceed to the development of weapons capable of attacking the space-based components of the system -- thus extending the arms race into space.

Professor Sobrino suggested the public was being misled into believing that the SDI program would eventually lead to abolition of nuclear weapons. The real dangers presented by nuclear weapons and the arms race were being "masked".