

Professor Gellner noted that efforts to develop a non-nuclear, space-borne defence system against ballistic missiles were under way in both the Soviet Union and the United States. One could only hope that these endeavours -- aimed as they are at eliminating the threat posed by strategic nuclear weapons -- will be successful.

#### Violation of treaties

Lawyers for Social Responsibility (David Wright, president, and others) said Canada could be violating treaty obligations and international law by taking part. Development of SDI would violate the ABM treaty and could violate other international agreements such as the Outer Space Treaty, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Partial Test Ban Treaty as well as the UN charter and other UN declarations.

The group recommended that Canadian industry be barred from participating in SDI and urged Canada to reject any direct involvement in the program. The program, the submission argued, will accelerate the arms race, increase the likelihood of conventional war and increase the likelihood of a first strike.

The substantial resources which the program would require could and should be put to better use, particularly since the weight of scientific opinion suggested that such an anti-ballistic missile defence system could be easily rendered ineffective.

Mr. Wright said it was almost impossible to draw a meaningful distinction between research and actual development. "It is incredulous that \$33 billion would be spent on research if no further steps will be taken."