

# This is the big one: war within ten years

by Simon Blake

World War III will be caused by poor judgment or accident said a noted Canadian authority Friday.

"I can guarantee that within the next 5 - 10 years there is going to be a world war, it is going to be a nuclear holocaust and it will be the last war," charged Dimitrios Roussopoulos who was on campus to discuss his new books, *The Coming of World War III* and *Our Generation Against Nuclear War*.

"The institution of war has been around for centuries and to assume that it can be easily uprooted is an illusion," Rou-

ssopoulos said.

"War has become locked in with new technology and that technology is out of control. It has its own logic which feeds itself. Politicians find it irresistible. The new weapons (Cruise and Pershing missiles) were on the drawing boards in the late sixties and early seventies," Roussopoulos claimed.

He pointed to 147 false alarms (about Soviet missile attacks) in the U.S. in the past five years and to the Korean airliner disaster which could have caused nuclear retaliation by the U.S.

He also used the Korean

incident to illustrate how paranoid the Soviets are becoming. "They are so nervous that they could not even take the time to find out what type of aircraft it was."

A Pershing missile will allow the Soviets only eight minutes warning (as opposed to the thirty minutes they now have) while a cruise missile gives them none so that "if Yuri Andropov was on the toilet he would not even have time to wipe himself," Roussopoulos said.

Therefore, the Soviet Union has a new policy of "Launch on Warning." "If even one missile, real or imaginary, crosses the Iron

Curtain the Russians will reply with everything they have," Roussopoulos claimed.

"The idea that a 'limited nuclear war' is possible is therefore absurd," said Roussopoulos.

He also scoffed at the idea that the next world war will be fought with conventional weapons because "Conventional bombs have been perfected to the state where the largest are more powerful than small nuclear weapons" (like those dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima during the second world war).

"Nato decided to deploy

Pershing and Cruise missiles at a conference in 1979 to counter Russian SS-20 missiles which were installed in Eastern Europe in 1977, which in turn were designed to counter American missiles deployed in Western Europe in the early sixties," Roussopoulos said.

Roussopoulos went on to speak about the peace movement. Compared to the movement of the sixties the new one is bigger, more sophisticated, multi-issued, and it pays careful attention to what is happening in the Soviet Union.

He said the Canadian peace movement "has made a very stupid mistake in that it concentrates on the single issue of Cruise missile testing in Alberta" and will thus "collapse when it loses that fight."

He said the Canadian movement should be protesting sales of Candu reactors to countries "whose only purpose is to use them for weapons." He also pointed out that Canada is one of the ten largest weapons exporters in the world.

Roussopoulos spoke at length about the peace movement in Eastern Europe. He called the official government "Peace Committees" that exist in every Eastern Block country a "crock of shit" whose only purpose "is to explain Soviet foreign policy."

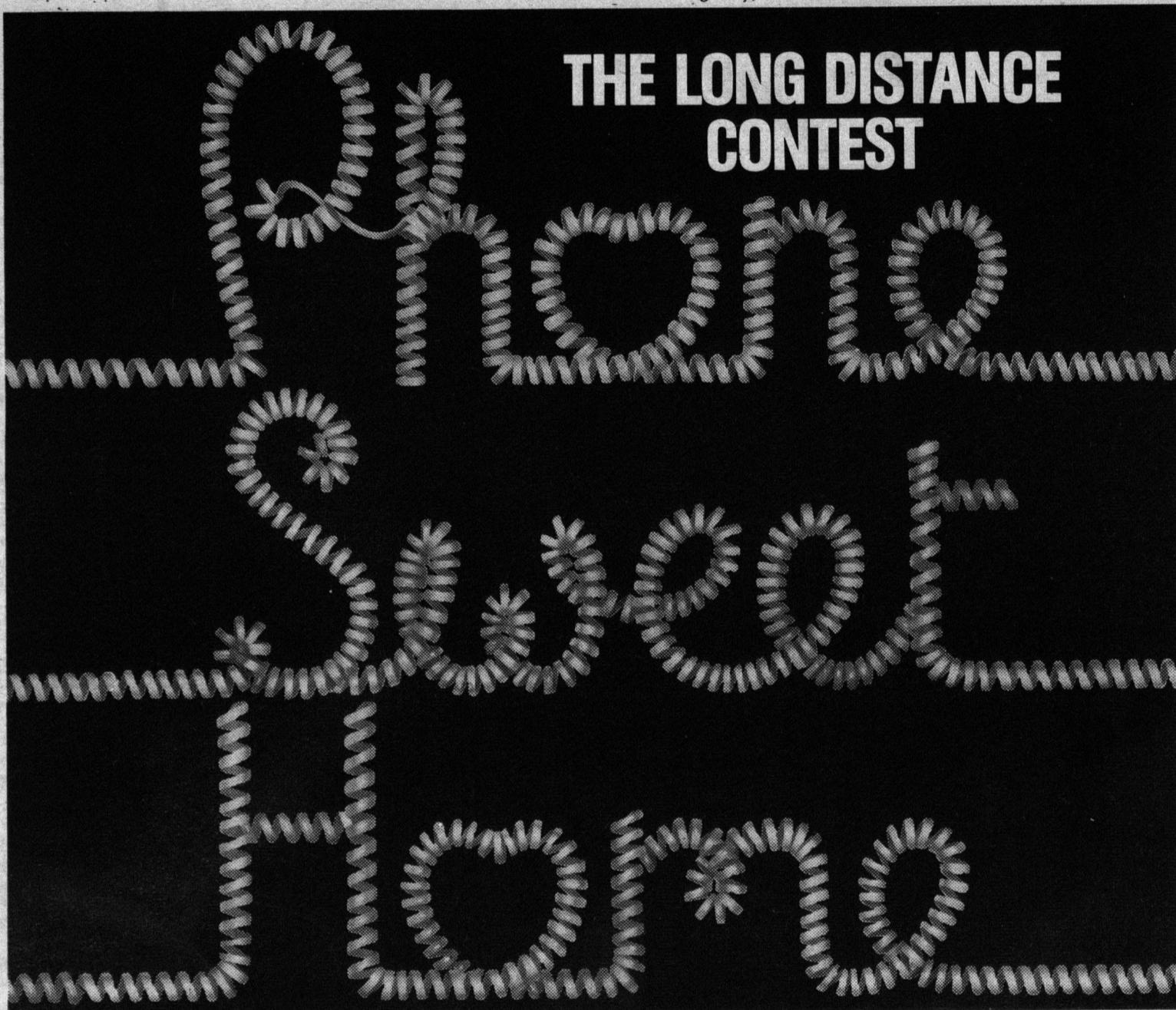
However, he also said, because peace and disarmament are official Soviet policies this puts "virtue on their side and evil on the other" in the eyes of the world.

Roussopoulos maintains, "There is a sincere desire for peace and disarmament in the East."

"East Germans see West German TV and this causes an echo effect. Last year 5000 people demonstrated in Dresden, East Germany, without official sanction.

The East German peace movement motto is "Swords to Ploughshares." Roussopoulos also talked about the independent peace movements in Hungary and the Soviet Union. "The only reason," he said, "these people haven't been wiped off the face of the earth is because of vigorous protest by the Western peace movement."

Roussopoulos was pessimistic about the possibility for peace, saying, "Militarism represents a structure of mind. Western European leadership is hopelessly caught up in the logic of nuclear war. They prefer to follow the tried and true ways. It is easier for them in terms of both their own minds and their political futures to risk armament rather than disarmament."



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If you are interested in this position, or would simply like to get more information about the Gateway, contact Brent Jang in Room 282 SUB.

Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 1983.