

It seems to be the case that since 1970 the super powers have each gained in absolute military strength, but their relative political, economic and ideological weight seems to have declined. The risks of East-West conflict remain as high or higher as each sees the hand of the other in any turn of events. The ability of others to control events or even to influence events has lessened. Not only is that true of the super powers, but it is true also of lesser states, at least that is how it appears to me. Tonight, presumably, our speakers will want to address such questions as the strategic balance, what is the present strategic situation, what is the current strategic doctrine, how has it evolved in the last number of years, how will it evolve in the future. They will not only be touching on some of these questions, but they will be introducing new ideas of their own.

The first lead speaker is Mr. David Steel, the leader of the Liberal Party of the United Kingdom. I thought I had his constituency in my head before I came into the room, but I found that the boundaries have been changed and he has a new designation for his constituency on the border of Scotland and England - I haven't had time to master the designation, but he has been a Member of Parliament for quite some time and has recently taken part in a very exciting election in Britain.

David Steel: Thank you first for the invitation to be here. I am looking forward very much to these two days of discussion. I have been on holiday for the last month or so and negotiations about this were conducted by my office and when they told me I was required to speak in this opening session, I protested because I don't know anything about