

U.S./U.S.S.R. confrontation close to trigger

by Doug Simpson

International peace and security are "resting on an increasingly shaky foundation" with the prospects of a nuclear war growing more imminent, according to several speakers at a nuclear symposium held at Dalhousie on Remembrance Day.

The threat of nuclear war is the product of a state's perception of its own vulnerabilities, the extent to which that state believes its values and political interests may be threatened by the actions of its opponents, said Prof. Dan Middlemiss of Dalhousie's Political Science department.

"It is their largely subjective perceptions of what is at stake and what our opponent intends to do that lend a particularly menacing dimension to the nuclear threat of today," he said.

"The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are now confronted with a Catch-22 situation in which their attempts to eliminate the perceived vulnerabilities and weaknesses have lead each side closer to a hair trigger."

Should such a war prevail, a warhead dropped on the Halifax peninsula would be catastro-

phic, resulting in little chance of survival, according to other speakers at the symposium.

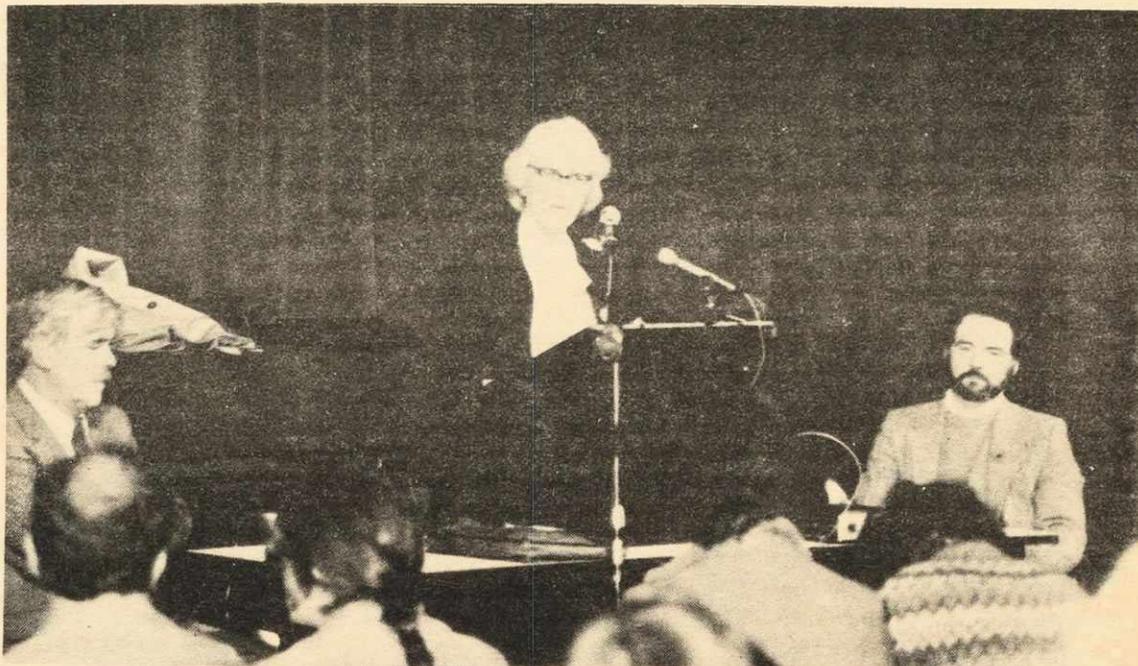
"If a one-megaton bomb exploded over the 'Willow Tree' (corner of Robie St. and Quinpool Road), it would incinerate everything near it and down to the foot of the MacDonald Bridge," said Dr. Donald Betts, a physicist at Dalhousie.

"Any survivors will be several miles from the blast, but medical access would be limited," he said.

Dr. Joe Clarke, a biochemist and paediatrician at Dalhousie, said "The death and injuries due to the heat and the blast would be more than the resulting radiation."

"The worst problem is treatment for burns in the immediate post-blast period," said Clarke. Burns must be treated immediately, but rescuing and treating the injured would be complicated by the destruction of all medical facilities and the death of 90 per cent of medical personnel.

Radioactive fall-out within 48 hours of the attack would kill everything in a 16-22 km radius from the centre of the blast. Survivors within 2000 square



Haebler/Dal Photo

miles would be struck with a variety of health problems including abortion and sterility.

"Medical treatment is the most acute problem if there are any survivors after the first few days," he said.

The symposium featured speakers who were experts in

their fields, including peace advocate Ms. Muriel Duckworth. She spoke on what individuals can do about the threat of nuclear war.

"Canadians have no right to be smug," she said, "we are not supporting the peace process

movement in Europe and Canadians must make up their minds whether to become involved in such actions."

"The peace movement needs the support of people who will act; everybody can do it, and we all better try," she said.

Senate debate continues on Dal's deficit

by Bruce Galloway,

The Dalhousie Senate failed once more, on Monday afternoon, to vote on a controversial report from the Senate's financial committee.

The report, designed to help alleviate Dalhousie's escalating deficit, came under heavy criticism from faculty members at Monday's meeting. Some faculty members were critical of the

fact that out of nine short term recommendations made by the committee, six deal with the freezing of faculty positions.

Dalhousie is projected to incur a \$7 million deficit in 1980-81.

Professor Chris Axworthy, negotiator for the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), was concerned that not all the non-academic avenues to help Dal-

housie out of its current financial bind had been exhausted. Speaking after the meeting, Axworthy said, "The report does not take into account the future needs of the University. Its decisions will have adverse effects on academic programs."

Axworthy questioned the committee's priorities in recommending cut backs which would hurt academic programs before other areas had been carefully examined. "It would be best to dump the whole report," he said.

Robie Shaw, Vice-President in charge of finance, agreed that in the long run the report's recommendations would have an adverse effect on academic programs. "However, the reports recommendations are only short-term measures" Shaw said.

"It is difficult for me to disagree with the DFA," said Shaw "but if something isn't done immediately to alleviate Dal's deficit we will wind up so far in the hole that we will never get out. We are in a very severe short term financial crisis. We can't wait for the implementation of long term programs." Shaw noted that other non-academic solutions are being examined. "We are now in the process of selling two million dollars worth of real estate owned by Dalhousie", said Shaw.

Discussion at Monday's Senate meeting centered on three recommendations of the report, concerning post retirement appointments, voluntary early retirement, and encouragement of voluntary leave of absence. Disputes arose on

everything from specific wording of certain phrases to the validity of whole recommendations. After two hours of discussion the meeting was adjourned having failed to examine the report's last two recommendations.

Senate Chairperson, Professor Alisdair Sinclair, was not disappointed by the failure to vote on the report. "The report is a lengthy and controversial document", said Sinclair. "This

sort of discussion is to be expected." Sinclair also noted "that the length of discussion is a good sign that people are interested in the problem and are becoming more informed about just what the report means."

The Senate now having spent five hours debating the report will meet again on November 27 to try and finish discussion and have the final vote.



Cheney/Dal Photo

U.S. education needs bucks

VANCOUVER (CUP) Unlike their Canadian counterparts, U.S. educators oppose further tuition increases and are pushing for higher taxes to bail out post-secondary education.

The same day seven Canadian university presidents recommended doubling tuition fees to reduce university dependence on government funding, Washington state's six university presidents pledged their support to Governor Spellman to increase sales, business and occupation taxes to raise the necessary funds to maintain post-secondary education.

In a September 29 interview with the University of Washington student newspaper, the Daily, Evergreen State college president Dan Evans said the state legislature sharply boosted this year, but promised higher quality education.

"It would be a real breaking of faith for the legislature to go in and cut back sharply now," he said.

"We'd have the higher tuition, no extra benefits, and then have to reduce below what we had before."

Spellman had ordered a 10.1 per cent spending cutback for the six universities in September, but in a letter to the Daily October 2, said he had "no choice under the law." (The state budget and accounting act requires the governor to make across-the-board cuts as soon as a deficit is determined.)

"I find these cuts in education and in other areas unacceptable," Spellman said at the time. "I believe that they cannot be achieved and vital services provided to the people and the children of this state. It will be difficult, if not impossible, in the areas of education, institutions and other programs to absorb a 10 to 20 per cent cut.

"It would be patently unfair to expect increased tuitions, paid by the state's higher education students, but decreased educational opportunities," he added in his letter.