

The conference ended with a live satellite linkage between Washington and Moscow consisting of a 90-minute exchange of scientific information and views on Nuclear Winter. During the exchange, the principal scientific secretary of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Gregori Skryabin, said that American and Soviet scientists had reached a consensus:

"They are unified in their views that there should be no nuclear war, that this would mean disaster and death for mankind...and we should all try to bring our influence to bear in order to bring about an end to the arms race so there will never be a nuclear war."

At the end of the satellite link-up, conference moderator Dr. Thomas Malone expressed the hope that this frank exchange of views would be viewed as a turning point in the affairs of humankind and would "elevate the level of consciousness among policy-makers."

The origins of the Nuclear Winter theory, along with the proceedings of the conference and an elaboration of Nuclear Winter findings, were brought together in the book, The Cold and the Dark: The World After Nuclear War co-authored by Carl Sagan and Paul Erlich .

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The Canadian Government took note of the growing number of national studies produced by such respected institutions as the Swedish Academy of Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Science and the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. In spring 1984, the Minister of the Environment commissioned the Royal Society of Canada to study the environmental and ecological consequences of a nuclear war from a Canadian perspective.

The Royal Society of Canada, founded in 1885, is an 1,100-member interdisciplinary society which has participated actively in the learned scientific and academic affairs of Canada. Chaired by Dr. Kenneth Hare, Provost of Trinity College, University of Toronto, the Royal Society Committee on the Environmental Consequences of Nuclear War spent seven months studying the possible effects of nuclear war on the Canadian environment.

In February 1985, the Royal Society submitted its report: "A Canadian Appraisal of the Environmental Consequences of Nuclear War." The conclusions were in agreement with the findings of earlier studies undertaken by other major national scientific organisations: