

The Fletcher Panel argued in favour of a 'layered defence' because of its effectiveness. Two layers, each capable of intercepting 50 percent of the targets, would together intercept only 75 percent of the total warheads; four such layers would intercept almost 95 percent of the warheads. Since each layer would use different types of sensors and interceptors, the defence as a whole could be less vulnerable to countermeasures.

The Hoffman Panel

The second study group, the Future Security Study (known as the *Hoffman Panel*, after its head Fred Hoffman), assessed the strategic implications of new defence systems. The panel was not optimistic about achieving a reliable defence of the American population in the near term. However, it did identify a number of applications for "intermediate" defences, especially the potential for Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile (ATBM) defences in Europe, and recommended major investment in this area.

The Strategic Defense Initiative Organization

Following these two studies, President Reagan consolidated over 30 pre-existing missile defence-related programmes into five major programmes which form the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO). These are:

- 1) Surveillance, Acquisition, Tracking and Kill Assessment (SATKA)
- 2) Directed Energy Weapons (DEW)
- 3) Kinetic Energy Weapons (KEW)
- 4) Battle Management System
- 5) Support Programmes

I. SATKA — Surveillance, Acquisition, Tracking, and Kill Assessment

A) Definition of Terms:

- a) *Surveillance*: to continuously monitor likely missile-launch locations and regions in space where those missiles and their warheads are likely to pass.
- b) *Acquisition*: to discriminate warheads from background 'noise' and decoys.
- c) *Tracking*: to determine precise location and trajectory of each warhead; this information must be frequently