

require a substantial increase in Canadian expenditures for the defence of North America. Finally, development of SDI would impose strains on relations between Washington and Europe within the NATO framework.

The Council felt Canadian participation in SDI research would be extremely unlikely to gain Canada any meaningful influence over decisions in the SDI program. At the same time, direct Canadian participation could entail additional encroachment on Canada's territorial sovereignty -- for example, a major extension of the U.S. security presence in Canada.

Research would lead to deployment

The Canadian Labour Congress condemned the SDI research program and urged Ottawa to reject participation in it. The CLC took the position that any involvement in SDI research at present would mean deployment later and further proliferation of weapons systems at a later date.

The CLC discounted the SDI as a job-producer; the record in other areas showed there were few jobs to be created -- and even if there were, the Congress would argue against such a move in the face of fostering a more dangerous world.

The CLC urged a different approach emphasizing satellite technology for verification and arms control. Canada should work for arms control "through the application of its technology and political will..."

Focus on "serious" proposals

Operation Dismantle (Jim Stark, president, and Bill Robinson, researcher) urged Canada to reject participation in SDI