

DECEMBER 9, 1987, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

I - St. John's High School, Winnipeg

70 students were in attendance at this discussion, and questions were of a serious nature. Six of the questions related to the INF Agreement. One student wanted to know where the money which would not be spent on armaments because of the INF Agreement would go. Another pointed out that the Agreement was not conclusive as it did not apply to countries in addition to the superpowers who already had or were pursuing a nuclear capability. Another student asked whether there was general agreement among those of the Ambassador's age that younger people have a better understanding of the world.

II - Public Forum, University of Winnipeg

Mrs. Valerie Klassen, of the Winnipeg Coordinating Committee for Disarmament, welcomed the INF Agreement, and declared its signing as a "reason to party". It was the beginning of a long process and the peace movement needs to reassess its approach. She criticized the DND White Paper which was written with "aggressive intent". There is no need for a North Warning System as there is no reason to warn the USA of incoming USSR missiles. Mrs. Klassen endorsed the Canadian Alliance Peace Pledge Campaign and solicited memberships on its behalf.

Dr. Paul Buteux, of the University of Manitoba, contended that if peace was a "human right", it must be realized that rights also implied obligations. He disagreed with Ambassador Roche that a START Treaty embodying 50% cuts would be the most important East-West event since the end of the Second World War and claimed that the title belonged to OSTPOLITIK. He criticized the DND White Paper for failing to give recognition to the healthy change in East-West policies.

One participant wondered how much of the credit for an INF Treaty belonged to the peace movement, while another sought information on government/peace group liaison opportunities. It was alleged that continued USA Testing of Cruise Missiles in Canada was inappropriate now that there was an INF Treaty. Advice was sought as to how the spread of nuclear weapons to other countries might be halted. One person wondered whether it was right for Canada to attempt to impose its standards of human rights on other countries. Demilitarization of the Arctic was avocated as was implementation of the UN international development strategy as a method of eliminating the causes of war.