

industries -- and many economic advantages would accrue to Canada from research and production contracts.

Options presented

York University - Research Program in Strategic Studies concentrated on the options open to Canada with the U.S. invitation. The York group set choices involving a clear no or clear yes as well as two intermediate policy options -- the qualified acceptance prescription limiting research participation and the restrained rejection prescription declining to participate directly but leaving any Canadian firm or university free to participate in SDI-related projects. A clear acceptance would reinforce Canada's special relationship with the U.S. and result in some genuine economic benefits; but it would arouse strong domestic oppositions and still leave Canada with little ability to control the direction the U.S. might take in the SDI program.

The York team noted, however, that participation did offer some prospect of influence with American decision-makers. Canadian airspace would be involved regardless of formal Canadian participation. But if there were no formal involvement, Canada would either have to surrender vast portions of its sovereignty or protect them "at enormous cost".

Security the key

John Gellner, author and defence specialist, suggested Canada's decision in respect to participation in the SDI should not be the creation of jobs or the acquisition of advanced scientific and technical knowledge, but rather Canada's interest in helping with a project likely to contribute substantially to Canadian and world security.