



S-P Photo by Glen Berger

Douglas Roche, Canada's ambassador for disarmament

Aid to poor would reduce terrorism

The most effective way of reducing terrorism and the threat of nuclear war would be to increase economic and social aid to poor countries and troubled regions, about 200 people were told in Saskatoon Sunday night by several speakers.

Douglas Roche, Canada's ambassador for disarmament, said the key question facing Canada and other developed nations is simple: "Are we going to threaten to annihilate them (poorer countries), or are we going to share the resources of the planet? That's the question.

"The answer to terrorism is to stamp out the roots of terrorism . . . to apply the international machinery of politics and diplomacy that we have at our disposal to put in more rapid economic and social development into those areas, particularly the Middle East," said the former Progressive Conservative MP from Edmonton.

"I make no excuse for terrorists. Of course it's absolutely intolerable," Roche said at a dinner sponsored in his honor by the Saskatoon branch of the United Nations Association of Canada. "But

the approach to it must be one in which we apply the economic, social and political means to build the conditions for peace — and dampen down the sources of conflict."

Red Williams, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and a former president of CUSO, stressed "there is much more to disarmament than simply turning swords into ploughshares.

"The main and underlying cause (of war) is the unrest of people who cannot fulfil their reasonable expectations for food, shelter and simple amenities."

Ellen Gould, project co-ordinator for Project Ploughshares in Saskatoon, said world-wide military expenditures are accelerating while spending on social programs is being cut back.

Gould said Canada is not the "penny-ante military spender" it is often made out to be, adding that it ranks 11th in military spending out of the world's 160 nations.

Roche said almost \$1 trillion is spent each year on world-wide

military programs, to the great detriment of the global economy.

He said the 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world today have a destructive capacity, one million times greater than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

Williams spoke of "the absolute craziness of our world leaders claiming to speak in our interest

for development while planning our demise many times over.

" . . . They want to shoot us from outer space now. What logic is that? We have to convince these people . . . that the only way you can disarm is to disarm. You can't disarm by building weapons. Every day of this brinkmanship is a day of mortal risk for all of us."

