

Other steps take precedence

William Epstein (Chairman, Canadian Pugwash Group; Senior Special Fellow, UN Institute for Training and Research) urged that Canada should withhold any participation in any aspect of SDI pending pursuit of other steps.

These would include full compliance with the ABM treaty; full compliance with the Test Ban and Outer Space treaties. Mr. Epstein, a specialist in disarmament measures, also called for moves to urge both superpowers to negotiate and agree on a treaty banning the testing, deployment and use of anti-satellite weapons. He urged postponement of action on the North Warning System and consultation with allies on raising the entire problem of outer space and nuclear weapons in the UN.

Mr. Epstein foresaw deployment of SDI systems as destabilizing the arms race; it could also mean the end of nuclear arms control. It would be inconceivable that when neither superpower was engaged in building a strategic defence, the other would agree to limit or reduce its offensive weapons.

Improper for private sector

Ottawa Disarmament Coalition opposed Canadian participation in the SDI research program. The Coalition indicated that Canada should refrain from participating in or subsidizing Canadian firms through the Defence Industry Productivity Program. Surely it was improper as well to allow Canadian firms to participate in an enterprise which so many Canadians "find to be dangerous and morally repugnant".

The government had recently placed controls on Canadian companies investing in South Africa; surely even stricter