

that the fear of nuclear war had had a restraining effect on the actions of the superpowers over the last forty years, especially in the European Theatre. They were, however, disturbed by recent trends in both doctrine and weapons technology which might undermine the stability of deterrence. The Strategic Defense Initiative of the Reagan Administration was particularly worrying. Although the purpose of the new Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) remains ambiguous, most participants agreed that a push for BMD would affect military planning, weapons deployment and strategic stability, profoundly and irreversibly. On balance, these effects would be negative. Each side would become more fearful of a first strike by the other side, military plans would need to incorporate more provisions for a rapid response to a surprise attack, deployment of more offensive weaponry and penetration aids would be required to overwhelm strategic defences, and the overall result would be less stability in East-West relations.

Optimism was expressed by some participants over the recent arms control proposals in Geneva. Deep cuts in strategic arsenals and in intermediate-range forces in Europe would not change the military equation but might contribute to a real reduction in tensions between the superpowers, but, for the reasons outlined above, SDI would jeopardize the possibility of reducing offensive weapons. Many participants urged renewed commitment to the ABM Treaty and support for a Comprehensive Test Ban and a ban on anti-satellite weapons.

The journalists, academics, and representatives from non-governmental organizations, who took part in the conference, agreed that Canadian government officials were often reluctant to inform Canadians about negotiations and informal agreements with the United States and other allies. Officials, along with academics and other "experts", were enjoined to make an effort to inform both Canadian citizens and members of the various media about defence and arms control issues.

### **Keynote Address**

The keynote address was given by the Right Honourable Denis Healey, currently British Labour MP and formerly Secretary of Defence. (The full text is presented in Appendix I.) He said that he believed that the "post-war settlement in Europe would not have lasted forty years without the deterrent effect of nuclear weapons", but warned that new theories and new weaponry threatened the stability of the balance of power. He summarized the developments in nuclear doctrine, geopolitics, and weapons technology which