President's Corner

POST-SUMMIT
SPECULATIONS

To greet a few handshakes and
smiles as harbingers of a detente
may be to indulge in wishful
thinking, but wishful thinking – also
called "hope" – may be an ingredient
of effective action. Effective action
depends on avoiding two kinds of
danger: succumbing to despair when
things go bad and indulging in com-
placency when things seem to get
better.

The Reagan administration in the
U.S. has made things look very bad
indeed. Sabre rattling has exceeded in
intensity all the threats heard
since the start of the Cold War. While
deterrence remained the chief
argument-stopper in all discussions of
the arms race, the proponents of
WINNABLE nuclear war unmasked their
batteries and went on to the off-
ensive.

Deeds may speak louder than
words; but as inputs to social re-
ality words are deeds. Every one is
to a certain extent a prisoner of
one's own rhetoric, politicians es-
specially. Of course, politicians
are also adept in making about-faces
but it takes effort. What is being
said becomes part of social reality,
in particular of the political cli-
mate, one of the determinants of
the amount of trust or distrust and of
the degree of cognitive reality or
of paranoia in the relations be-
 tween the superpowers.

Those that argue that trust must
be established between the super-
powers before any serious steps to-
ward disarmament are undertaken are
half right. Those that argue that
the paranoid attitudes of the super-
powers' leaders are induced by fears
generated by the arms race are also
half right. The truth is not "some-
where in between". The truth en-
compases both positions, as is so
often the case when cause and effect
are interchangeable.

The intensification of the cold
war had already started during Car-
ter's administration. The momentum
carried over into Reagan's and made
it that much easier to shift the

(continued on pg. 4)

Meilleurs voeux

NPT Conference

Despite the foreboding situation
the 1985 review conference did suc-
ceed in achieving a final declara-
tion by consensus. The parties de-
clared their conviction that the NPT
is essential to international peace
and security and reaffirmed their
continued support for the objectives
of the Treaty - to prevent the pro-
liferation of nuclear weapons and
nuclear explosive devices, to halt
and reverse the nuclear arms race,
and to promote cooperation in the
peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The critical issue on which the
conference came close to foundering
was the failure of the three nuclear
powers (U.S., U.K., USSR) to meet the
requirements of Art. VI to achieve a
comprehensive test ban and a cessa-
tion of the arms race "at an early
date". Because of US opposition to
a test ban, a vote was avoided. Be-
cause of its policy of solidarity
with the US on the question of pre-
venting the spread of nuclear wea-
pons, the USSR also wanted to achieve
consensus and avoid a vote.

Negotiations conducted by Ambas-
sador García Robles (Mexico) for
the neutral and non-aligned states
and Lewis Dunn of the US led to the
adoption of the final declaration by
consensus.

- William Epstein
(Copies of the final document are
available from the national office.)

Tritium & Hydro

In 1987 Ontario Hydro will start
removing tritium from the heavy wa-
ter used in its reactors. Tritium
is an essential component of nuclear
warheads; and Ontario Hydro, wishing
to exploit the element commercially,
is faced with the problem of re-
suring the public that none of its
tritium can be used in the American
nuclear weapons program, either di-
rectly or indirectly. To that end,
it is inviting public input into the
establishment of guidelines for the
exploitation of this product.

Briefs from interested organiza-
tions and individuals are welcomed
on the issue. Deadline is Jan. 15,
1986, for the public consultation.
Background material is available
from David Hardy, M.C.I.P., Senior
Community Studies Planner, Ontario
Hydro, 700 University Ave., Toronto,
M5G 1X6.
Newsworthy

David Suzuki has joined the board of Pollution Probe in Toronto.

The Bertrand Russell Peace Lectures were inaugurated Nov. 5 and 6 at McMaster University in Hamilton by E.P. Thompson (U.K.) who has been described as "the single most important figure in European Nuclear Disarmament." He spoke on "The Threat of War" and "The Healing of the Blocs".

The University College (U of Toronto) Lectures in Peace Studies heard Johan Galtung, founder of the Peace Research Institute in Oslo, speak Nov. 28 on "World of Wounded Nations: The Politics of Trauma." Galtung was in Canada to deliver the keynote address to the Canadian Conference on Economic Conversion.

Eric Fawcett, former president of Science for Peace, has been hard at work since summer attempting to establish an international network of scientists opposed to continuation of the arms race. He has established contact between a number of national groups of scientists and secured promises from the groups to exchange publications. Science for Peace endorsed the idea (its acronym is SPIN) at its Nov. 6 board meeting. SANA - Australia and the Japan Scientists Association have already begun exchanging newsletters.

SPIN is not an organization itself, Fawcett claims. It has no constitution, no officers and no mandate, but it's an idea whose time may come. He is currently supporting and seeking support for a meeting of scientists on the occasion of the possible 1986 UN Special Session on Disarmament.

From: Vice-President (Research)
Subject: S.D.I. Research

"Any staff member of this University is free to accept support from this source, provided that the results of the work are freely publishable without undue delay in the scientific or scholarly literature. My personal view with respect to this source, is that I wouldn't touch it with a 10 foot pole because to do so would be to accord it more credence than it is worth. Anyone who thinks that S.D.I. can be taken seriously should read the article "Software aspects of strategic defense systems" by Professor D.L. Parnas (U. of Victoria) in the American Scientist, October 1985, vol. 73, 5, pp. 432-440."

- J. Gordin Kaplan
University of Alberta

Anatol Rapoport will teach a course in McMaster University's new peace studies program in 1986.

Two international conferences have been announced for April:
For Vancouver, a city centennial project directed toward the assembling of "ideas for constructive steps leading to disarmament." which will be incorporated into the "Vancouver Proposals", a document to be delivered to all NATO and Warsaw Pact Countries. April 19 - 27.

And in Montreal, April 21 - 23, is a conference on the theme "Illusions and Realities in the Nuclear Age." Scheduled to appear on the program are SIP board members and members Anatol Rapoport, George Ignatieff, Margaret Fulton, Robert Malcolmson, M.L. Handa, M.V. Naidu, Ernie Regehr.

Ursula Franklin helped narrate the CBC IDEAS program, THE NORTHERN FRONT, in October. Other members appearing on the three programs were Robert Raford, Ernie Regehr, Mel Watkins. A complete transcript of the three programs and a bibliography are now available from CBC Transcripts, P.O. Box 4039, Station "A", Toronto M5P 2P6. $5. Address: IDEAS.

Chicago, Illinois

"At this time I want to thank you for the help to our Cause of the Month Club. For years, after discussing problems facing us at the time, we have decided what organizations should be supported. At the last get-together I presented excerpts from the President's Corner in the BULLETIN and read your letter to the group. The enclosed check is our small contribution to Science for peace. Our very best to you."

- Sara Goldberg

Freeze Facts

Technology has created an interdependence between nations which we seem not yet willing or able to recognize. Summity in Geneva is all very well, but when our nuclear weapons powers feel Lilliputians when we ponder our inability to influence the policies of the US and the USSR.

The FREEZE campaign offers a first step to all countries to press for a halt to the madness of the seemingly endless pursuit of nuclear superiority by the two superpowers.

Public opinion in both the US and the UK, for example, speaks out clearly in its support. Norway, which voted against the Indian and Soviet Freeze drafts before the UN General Assembly, abstained on both these and on the Mexican-Swedish draft in 1984 because of public support for the Freeze in Norway. Australia, which abstained on the three resolutions in 1983, voted in favour of the Mexican-Swedish draft in 1984 as a result of pressure from its Nuclear Disarmament Party.

The Five-Continent peace initiative of 1984, which called for a nuclear Freeze as a first step, was reaffirmed in 1985 by the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania.

The Canadian government is susceptible to the influence of public opinion. Its position on SDI surely reflects that. There is no reason to believe that our failure to support last year's Freeze resolution at the UN is etched in stone.

Gordon Thompson, in his briefing sheet on the implementation of a nuclear weapons Freeze which was distributed at the pre-NPT Review Conference in Geneva, writes:

"The Freeze concept is seen by some as primarily a vehicle to express popular support for an end to the arms race... (but) ...a Freeze would also serve national and international security functions in the same manner as more "traditional" arms control measures. Indeed, a good freeze-reduction package could serve these functions better than any arms agreement.

"A Freeze would be a small but very positive step towards a stronger framework of international security and the ultimate goal of global disarmament. Accordingly, the Freeze process should establish precedents which will be useful in more mature stages of world organization. This argues for the adoption, wherever possible, of multilateral or international measures of oversight and verification, rather than bilateral measures."

- Brydon Gombay

Professor Knelsen, Quebec Chapter member, former Science for Peace National Board Member, and author of the acclaimed NUCLEAR ENERGY: THE UNFORGIVING TECHNOLOGY (1976), discussed his latest book at a Toronto Chapter seminar Nov. 15. His analysis of the New Right and of the political advisors surrounding Pres. Reagan focused on the religious fundamentalist views which lead to a belief in the BOMB as an instrument of salvation as Armageddon approaches.

The President’s advisors who hold such views see arms control as meaningless and are dedicated to a quest for superiority in the arms race - which they endorse. They see this arms race as the best means of bringing about the capitulation and economic suffocation of the USSR.

Despite the power of these advisors, Prof. Knelsen is optimistic about the future. He sees their power eroding at the hands of Congress.

- Brydon Gomes


John Polanyi, NORAD'S FUTURE IN DOUBT, Brief to the Standing Committee of External Affairs and National Defense. Presented in Ottawa Nov. 19, 1985. In his brief Prof. Polanyi discusses links between Star Wars and NORAD.

Anatol Rapoport and Derek Paul for Science for Peace, COMPETITIVENESS AND SECURITY, a Brief on the External Affairs Department's GREEN PAPER submitted to the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on Canada's International Relations, November, 1985.
President's Corner (cont.)

drive toward war into high gear (the "High Frontier"). The substrates were already there, namely the rhetoric of hatred and threat and the self-righteousness of crusade. Of course rhetoric alone was not enough to keep up the impetus. That was provided by visions of new opportunities to spike the arms race with "high tech". And this is what has attracted even more competent scientists and technicians and imaginative war planners to the military preparations for the final holocaust. Coupled with the rhetoric of war planning, the provision of vast resources for war planning produced the politically lethal climate of these Reagan years for the whole world.

To the credit of the peace movement, it did not succumb to despair. There was a crescendo not only of protest, but also of substantive debate. The Star Wars issue, especially, provided a welcome opportunity to carry the debate to the camp of the war community when scientists and even strategists joined the "peace mongers" in building resistance to the drive to war.

Of course it was too much to expect that Star Wars would be dramatically scrapped. Politicians are prisoners of their rhetoric. But it is just barely possible that the stout resistance mobilized against the drive to perdition played a part in defusing the rhetoric.

Thus, the better-than-expected outcome of the Summit heralds hope. It will be somewhat more difficult for the US or the USSR to proceed openly with plans for a first-strike knock-out blow after a publicly stated agreement that a nuclear war is unmindful of accidents. Both leaders started to speak in the language of the peace movement. In the context of international politics, words are acts.

People now must avoid the danger of complacency (to which they succumbed after the last Summit). Both failures and successes, whether real or not, should be occasions for intensifying effort.  

- A.R.

NEW YORK (AP)

A group of banks led by First National of Chicago has agreed to lend the Soviet Union $400 million (US) at low interest rates to buy grain from Canada and the US. "The Soviet Union has come to be regarded as one of the best credit risks around," said Ed Hewitt, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

"The Geneva Summit," he said, "has improved things quite a bit. It has changed the atmosphere in a more positive direction."

Quote of the day

"Women are more interested in peace and things of that nature. I don't think most women are interested in the nitty gritty in what is happening in the Geneva armaments talks." — Donald Regan, White House chief of staff.

"On the contrary, Mr. Regan, disarmament is very much my cup of tea."

Letters

Sydney, Australia

"I recently came across your discussion paper "Security and Disarmament" of February, 1982. I was very interested to read of your support for an international satellite surveillance system. "Enclosed is a copy of a recent book in which I also endorse that proposal."

- Keith Suter


Hull, Quebec

Members of the Executive:

Enclosed is my membership renewal and cheque for $5.

Since there are growing numbers of us who happen to be unemployed, I would like to suggest that either you have another category of membership for unemployed at $5, or that you combine student, retired, unemployed into a single category. It seems to me important that the fact of unemployment is recognized more seriously in the academic and peace fields, especially as a major cause of the problem is unproductive military expenditures.

- David Leadbeater

Science for Peace

The Toronto Chapter, which got its mandate at the last SFP board meeting Nov. 6, has already started a newsletter of its own. It has moved quickly to assume responsibility for the lecture and seminar series at the University of Toronto which were formerly organized by national board members.

Equally quickly, the new (Nov. 6 mandate) Ottawa Chapter will move to take over and administer a national board approved program: the establishment of an award in the national youth Science Fair program.

Membership drives are underway in Quebec and B.C. Chapters. New Brunswick Chapter has finished this year's.

Gerhard Stroink, National Board Member from Halifax (Dalhousie), attended the Nov. 6 board meeting in Toronto to discuss possibilities for establishment of a chapter in Halifax.

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MELLON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

1986

The Program in Science, Technology, and Society at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology invites proposals from scientists, engineers, and physicians for one-year study fellowships on the relationships of science, technology, or medicine with society. Ph.D. or equivalent in science or engineering is desirable. Partial or full stipend. Deadline: February 1, 1986. For more information write Deborah Wilkes, Mellon Fellowship Committee, ESI-128 MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139. MIT is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer.