

Dr. Israel Unger speaks on 'Star Wars'

By NEIL TONER
Brunswickan Staff

A member of the Science for Peace national board says that if the United States goes ahead with Star Wars they will pay a trillion dollars (one thousand billion) for a system that won't work.

University of New Brunswick professor Dr. Israel Unger, co-founder of Science for Peace in New Brunswick, past president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, and current board member of the Institute for Public Policy Research (considered to be one of the top think tanks in Canada) told the December 5th meeting of WORD (World Disarmament) that "Star Wars is enormously costly, destabilizing to peace, and it can't work."

"There is absolutely no example in history where a defence has worked over time," said Unger. "Every time there has been a defence the offence has found a way around it."

Unger said people who support Star Wars argue that although the system isn't perfect yet neither were the telephone, or the airplane when they were started.

"But nobody was trying to prevent the Wright brothers from flying," said Unger.

He said both the Americans and the Russians are already working on ways of thwarting the Star War system.

Unger said the first, or boost, stage of a nuclear missile is the only time a laser could expect to hit the target.

He says in the second, or bust stage the missile can release a thousand decoys that would confuse the Star Wars system.

"So we can say if you don't have a defence system that will intercept in the boost phase then you haven't got anything," said Unger.

He said both the Americans and the Russians are working to reduce the time of the boost phase from five minutes to 50 seconds.

Unger says the worst part about Star Wars is that it is destabilizing for peace.

He says the Russians know as well as the Americans that Star Wars would only be effective against a weak, retaliatory blow.

Unger says that if a first strike by a country could destroy enough nuclear weapons then SW would take care of the rest.

"So what conclusion can they (the Russians) come to," said Unger.

"Remember that both nations are paranoid about each other."

But Unger, despite all this, is optimistic. "There is reason to be optimistic," said Unger, "not complacent, but optimistic."

He pointed out that the peace movement has grown and changed. "It now cuts across all spheres of society," said Unger.

Unger said he knows each person can make a difference in how both the Americans and the Russians behave. "I think they're (the American government is) very PR conscious," said Unger.

"The most hopeful sign (for peace) is that now the Russians have discovered PR."

He said that means public opinion can influence both governments. "They're making assessments as to how far they can push people," says Unger.

He says that if people push back it will make a significant difference.

"I think that's super" said Unger, "that means we all have power."

Unger suggested a way each person could use this power to

oppose nuclear war. "First you educate yourself," said Unger. "Then you make common cause with the people around you (your peers)."

He said for students this would mean joining a group like WORD or Science for Peace.

"Through that group you let the government know how you feel," said Unger.

Unger said in order to successfully resolve the nuclear arms issue there must be a massive change in attitude for

the entire human race.

He said that many responsible individuals have already adopted this new way of thinking.

"There are many instances (in history) where suddenly there is a (change) in human thinking," said Unger.

"I think we (the human race) have to learn a new manner of thinking" said Unger. "That wars and armaments are a thing of the past and we have to learn to live without them."

UNB law reverses decision

by KAYE MACPHEE
Brunswickan staff

combination of university grades and Law School Admission Test scores.

The admission requirements may now be the same for all law school applicants; the university from which one graduates may no longer be a consideration.

The recommendation for this proposed new admissions policy must now be submitted to the UNB Senate for approval.

If the Senate, like the two university presidents, accepts the proposal the discriminatory admissions policy will be revoked.

UNB-F law school has reversed its decision to discount STU students' Grade Point Average by 0.5%.

In a written notice issued by STU president Msgr. George Martin he said, "The report of the special ad-hoc committee struck by president (James) Downey, UNB, and me, October 21, 1985, has been received and accepted by both of us."

The admissions policy for entrance into first year law at UNB in 1986-87 may be a

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