

# UBC prof says Canada can afford to drop NATO ties

Montreal (CUP) — If Canada abandoned all weapons-related exports to NATO countries,

the country would lose only one-third of one per cent of our gross national product, said a University of British Columbia economist.

"Peanuts," said Gideon Rosenbluth, referring to the relative importance of Canada's \$2 billion per year arms export industry, during a recent talk about the economics of the arms race.

This means Canada would have little to lose economically by actively opposing Star Wars, nuclear weapons, American support of the contras, and other U.S. military

initiatives. But Rosenbluth said we probably wouldn't take that step.

"Our overall economic dependence on the United States prevents Canadian governments from operating independently in the political sphere," he said.

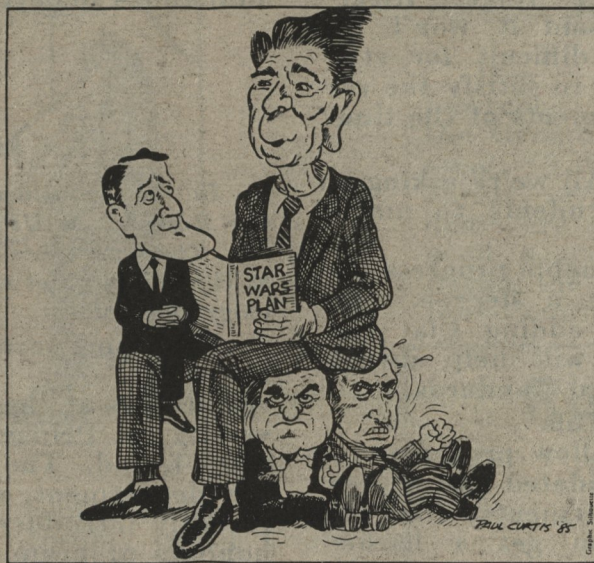
In contrast, said Rosenbluth, a recent speech by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made it clear the Soviet Union wants to stop the arms race for economic reasons. He said more of the available resources are used in the Soviet economy, so materials turned into weapons have a higher opportunity cost.

"The arms race might re-

sult in the collapse of the Soviet economic system. It's rational if you start from an intense anti-communist attitude," he said.

He said a major ob-

stacle to non-military employment development in Canada and the U.S. is their governments' "ideological bankruptcy with respect to employment creation."



## Govts' science and technology policy skimpy

Ottawa (CUP) — Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for science and technology have finally agreed on a formal national policy, although their agreement to co-operate may be the most significant point of the accord.

A six-point statement of policy objectives was announced March 12, although the formal statement differed little from a draft policy agreed upon last December.

Federal science and technology minister Frank Oberle said the "historic" agreement will "ensure that science and technology are used to promote economic, social and regional development in Canada through ongoing co-operation among governments and between the public and private sectors."

Some observers, however, say the policy is too vague for the country's needs.

"On the positive side, we're glad that they've agreed to agree," said Allan Sharp, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. However, "they have

not addressed any concrete problems. We feel it is too vague for the country's problems, and very quickly."

Sharp mentioned "dwindling" government support for basic research as an example of an urgent problem.

Ministers in an attractively-produced policy statement agreed to aid Canada's research and development effort, encourage "commercialization of technology" through innovation, and ensure a full slate of highly trained professionals. Ministers also agreed to "encourage basic and applied research and development", assist public awareness of science and technology.

The Council of Science and Technology Ministers, which was specially created to monitor implementation of the policy, has struck six working committees to study each objective.

Before the policy was formally announced in Vancouver, Sharp called on ministers to be "players, not cheerleaders" in improving Canada's

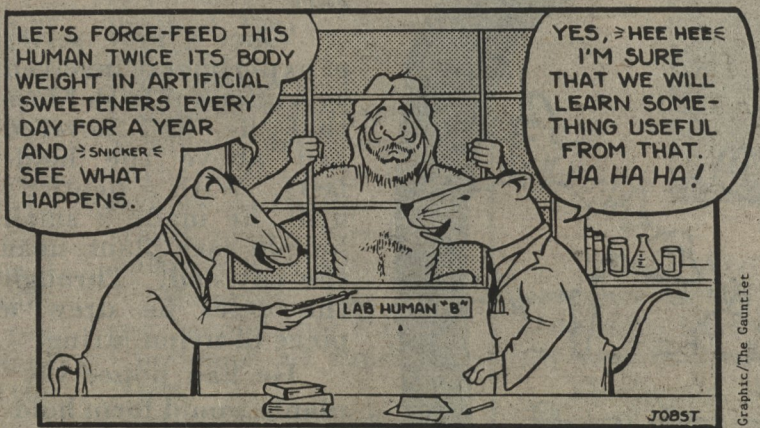
research and development effort.

Sharp, less than impressed by the policy's content, was also disappointed by the apparent exclusion of university research in the announcement.

"I have heard it

said that all the universities produce a few good engineers," Sharp said.

"Universities are an important part of the science community, and we are disappointed that this was not made more explicit (in the policy)."



NINE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE DOWNFALL OF THE HUMAN RACE THE RATS STILL HELD A GRUDGE.

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O'Keefe expects the student boycotts directed against O'Keefe to stop because of the change of ownership.

"We aren't connected to Rothmans anymore so the boycott should end soon," said Chilvers, "It has been in all the pa-

pers that Rothmans sold O'Keefe. They know there is no more connection."

Robert Douglas, a member of Concordia Students Against Apartheid, said they will investigate Elders IXL to make sure they have no ties to South Africa before calling for an end to the boycott.

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Campus police escorted council members out of the building, while protestors occupied the chambers for more than 30 minutes. The meeting was informally adjourned.

Governing council chair St. Clair Balfour said he expected some trouble at the meeting but "did not expect them to make so much noise for so long." Balfour said this was the second time in his eight years as chair that a meeting had ended because of a disruption.

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