

## **REPORT ON THE ISODARCO BEIJING COURSE 4-7 APRIL 1988**

After twenty-two years of summer courses in Italy, ISODARCO this year organized both its first winter course, and its first course outside of Italy, in the People's Republic of China. The course was held in Beijing April 4-7, 1988, and was organized in collaboration with the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and the Institute of Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics (IAPCM). Approximately sixty people attended the sessions: eight Western and about fifty Chinese scholars.

The Western participants included four scholars from the United States (R.L Garwin, E.C. Ravenal, Shu Yuan Hsieh and F. von Hippel), three from Italy (F. Duprè, A. Pascolini and C. Schaerf) and one from SIPRI (J. Sharp). The Chinese scholars came from CICIR, IAPCM and several other institutes, including the China Academy of Sciences (Academia Sinica), the China Academy of Social Sciences, the Academy of Military Sciences, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and many others. They constituted a very interesting example of Chinese intelligentsia, with contributions from the natural, social and political sciences. The list of participants prepared by our Chinese hosts is enclosed.

The meetings were held in English and Chinese, with simultaneous translation provided. Its quality depended on both the speed of the speakers and the availability of a written text, but it was generally good. Few Chinese participants could sustain a conversation in English, therefore our interchanges were more formal than is normally the ISODARCO tradition. On the other hand, we felt a strong and spontaneous desire to communicate with each other, which overcame in many ways the language barrier.

The meeting concentrated on three main topics:

- 1) Nuclear disarmament
- 2) Nuclear strategies
- 3) SDI

Each topic was introduced by about five speakers, with a general discussion session (of a specified duration) following each of the presentations.

Western papers slightly outnumbered Chinese ones. A more macroscopic prevalence was in the time allotted to them and in the number of questions they were asked.

We had a total of 15-20 major presentations, and a larger number of other contributions, for a total of 24 hours of solid discussion, excluding breaks of any kind.

A particular interest was the discussion on nuclear disarmament, and the repercussions that deep cuts in the strategic arsenals of the superpowers might have on the arsenals of smaller nuclear powers like China. We found our Chinese colleagues very sensitive to the problem, and very open to a discussion of the future course of Chinese nuclear deterrents in this scenario.

The effort by the Chinese to make this meeting a success was impressive (thanks to both the two institutes and the Chinese organizers, Professors Liu Seqing and Hu Side, and their closest collaborators). The last session was devoted to a discussion of this experience and its possible future. Our Chinese colleagues remarked that, to the best of their knowledge, this was the first occasion in China in which natural scientists and social and political scientists had met together in such a large group to discuss these problems, and the fact that Western colleagues were also present made it a unique experience. They all hoped for a repetition, possibly in the fall of 1989.