

looking into all the circumstances and I cannot answer him without doing that.<sup>29</sup>

In a follow-up question, Mr. Fulton asked the Minister if he could give his assurance that HI-6 studies would be reviewed publicly prior to its use on Canadian soldiers.<sup>30</sup> Once again, Mr. Clark stated that more time would be needed to examine the issue before an answer could be given.<sup>31</sup>

On 14 June 1988, responding to information that the Department of National Defence had been conducting open-air tests of nerve gas at the Defence Research Establishment in Suffield since 1983<sup>32</sup>, NDP Member Nelson Riis asked:

Does the Government of Canada manufacture this nerve gas at Suffield? Does it import the nerve gas? If so for whom? Why did the Government allow this nerve gas to be released into the atmosphere without prior notification to the people living in adjacent areas?<sup>33</sup>

In response to Mr. Riis' inquiries, Associate Minister of National Defence Paul Dick stated:

...the Department of National Defence has never made any bones about the fact that at Suffield, in an isolated area, we have tested nerve gas in small quantities, in laboratories and elsewhere, in order to protect our own troops in case they were ever faced with this situation. I should point out

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> See, for instance, Geoff White, "Nerve Gas Tested in Alberta," Ottawa Citizen, 14 June 1988, p. A1-2.

<sup>33</sup> Commons Debates, 14 June 1988, p. 16426.