

on confidence-building and verification measures relating to Europe, the issue was raised by Committee members.

Liberal member Bill Rompkey asked officials from the Department of External Affairs about Canada's role in advocating naval arms control measures, pointing out that there appeared to have been little work done on the question within NATO.

...surely we could simply have an exchange of information that could start confidence-building measures that could eventually lead to some form of naval arms control. Has Canada put any ideas forward like that? Surely we could play a mediation role between the United States and the Soviet Union in that regard.<sup>5</sup>

In response, Mark Moher, the Director General for International Security and Arms Control stated:

...Canada was one of the first countries within the NATO group to suggest that at an appropriate time we will have to move to address the question of naval arms control and naval confidence-building measures. It has, however, been recognized that there are enough issues on the table at this stage...<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Rompkey raised the question again when Ambassador Mason was appearing before the Committee, noting that little progress on naval issues was occurring within NATO. Ambassador Mason reiterated that Canada believed that confidence-building should be the starting-point. With reference to NATO activities she stated:

Essentially, the whole NATO focus on naval arms control has been in the context of the CFE and CSBM negotiations. It has therefore been within the Madrid mandate, ...which very strictly limits naval questions. Essentially they cannot be independent naval questions; they have to be functionally related to ground force activity. ...That is the context in which it has been going on, and Canada has been one of the countries that, ...wanted us to go as far as it was possible to go within the Madrid mandate.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs. *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence* [hereafter SCND. Minutes of Proceedings], no. 30, 6 November 1990: 8.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.: 9.

<sup>7</sup>SCND. *Minutes of Proceedings*, no. 35, 13 December 1990: 22-23.