

The Government does not support a declaration of nuclear weapon-free status for Canada. Although Canada does not possess nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons are not stationed on Canadian territory, Canada is a member of NATO which relies on a nuclear deterrent. The declaration of a nuclear weapon-free zone would be inconsistent with membership in that alliance.<sup>2</sup>

Despite this position the local authorities in sixty Canadian cities have declared their areas nuclear-free zones.

### Parliamentary Comment

In recent years proposals to make Canada a nuclear weapon-free zone have been put forward in the House of Commons on several occasions. The New Democratic Party has sponsored these resolutions and is opposed to the presence of nuclear weapons on Canadian territory; it believes that they do not contribute to the security of Canada or of the West. According to the NDP Canadian activities such as testing the cruise missile only serve to weaken the Canadian position on disarmament and to encourage nuclear proliferation.

Bill C-214, to make Canada a nuclear weapon-free zone, received first reading on 8 October 1986. It was introduced by NDP member Jim Fulton. It would forbid the deployment, testing, manufacturing, transporting or stockpiling of any nuclear weapons or the components thereof on Canadian territory, including Canadian territorial waters and airspace.

At its convention in November 1986 the Liberal Party put forward a resolution on this issue. The party resolved that the Canadian Government should stop testing the cruise missile in Canada and "should move

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.