

Canadian government to test the Cruise missile in Alberta because officials considered the climate and terrain comparable to conditions the missile would encounter in the Soviet Union. The Cruise missiles fly at speeds approaching 1,000 kilometres an hour over distances up to 2,500 kilometres, following the contours of the ground at an altitude of about thirty metres to duck detection or interception (*Globe and Mail*, December 10).

Among Canadian groups in support of an alternative role for Canada to play in the pursuit of world peace were the Canadian Parliamentarians for World Order. The group of 140 MPs from all parties and all provinces issued a Statement of Concern on Nuclear Arms in early December. In it the MPs appealed to the Canadian government "to support the new global call to the Soviet Union and the United States — the two major nuclear weapon countries — to stop any further increase in their awesome nuclear arsenals, which already have ample retaliatory power and a frightening overkill capacity . . . The Canadian government should take every step, in cooperation with other governments, to advance nuclear disarmament and world peace, and specifically, to press the governments of both the USSR and US to hold a Soviet-American Summit. Canada should withhold an agreement to test the cruise missile delivery system in Canada until such a summit is held."

On December 10, the *Globe and Mail* reported that Canada and the US had successfully concluded negotiations on the weapons testing agreement, paving the way for the separate pact allowing the Cruise missile testing in Canada. A government official told reporters that both sides were satisfied with the text and that final approval may be reached by the end of the year. (It wasn't.)

In the House of Commons December 14, Doug Anguish (NDP, The Battlefords-Meadow Lake) asked Prime Minister Trudeau about the details of the agreement, and when he expected the final signing. Mr. Trudeau said that he did not know of any date for the signing. Mr. Anguish also asked the Prime Minister for assurance that there will be "some debate in this House on the whole umbrella agreement, specifically on the use of the Cruise missile over Canadian territory, before the agreement is finally signed, so that we can voice the concerns of our constituents who have been writing to us about the Cruise missile question." Mr. Trudeau suggested that the NDP give over one of its opposition days to debate the subject.

The same day, leaders of Canada's major churches met with federal officials, and attended a luncheon with Mr. Trudeau. At the luncheon, they spoke against the plans for the Cruise missile testing, and against federal incentives that encourage Canadian industry to produce component parts for nuclear weapons. In a brief to the Prime Minister, the church leaders suggested peace-promoting alternatives including: "continuation of Canadian efforts to achieve a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty; insistence upon a no-first-use policy within NATO; support for a strategy of nuclear suffocation and a nuclear freeze; a declaration that Canada will be a nuclear-free zone with a specific time; increased efforts to strengthen peace-keeping; and allocation of public funds for peace research and public education" (*The Citizen*, December 15). Federal officials said that Mr. Trudeau pointed out to the Church leaders that the government is already committed to the

Cruise testing and that it must keep its obligations as a partner in NATO (*The Citizen*, December 15).

In the House of Commons December 15 Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) presented a motion, "That the Prime Minister now publicly respond to the request of millions of Canadians that the Church leaders presented to him yesterday." Ted Miller (NDP, Nanaimo-Alberni) moved that Parliament instruct the government to abandon the missile testing plans and "redirect its foreign policy toward policies that will promote international peace, and that Canada be declared a nuclear-free zone as well." Lorne Nystrom (NDP, Yorkton-Melville) also presented a motion that the government turn down US requests to test the missiles. Another motion was put forward by Sid Parker (NDP, Kootenay East-Revelstoke) that the government provide one day's House business for a debate on the testing. All of these motions under Standing Order 43 failed to get the required unanimous consent of the House.

Later, during Question Period, NDP external affairs critic Pauline Jewett asked Prime Minister Trudeau for a debate and free vote on the Cruise missile testing and the ensuing vote. She asked the Prime Minister whether he would allow free expression of opinion by government MPs, "and not use this issue as a confidence measure." The Prime Minister pointed out that under House of Commons rules, any vote on an opposition-allotted day is a non-confidence vote. Miss Jewett also said that there was not an NDP opposition day left.

The same day, Terry Sargeant (NDP, Selkirk-Interlake) questioned the Prime Minister about the proposed tests. He said that Mr. Trudeau had three or four times in the House in recent weeks said that he viewed the Cruise missile matter as serious, but had tried to defend his government's position to permit the testing. Mr. Trudeau responded that he did indeed understand the concern shown by Mr. Sargeant and by many Canadians on the Cruise missile testing, "if that is indeed to happen and which has not been decided yet." He said that Canada must participate in the NATO alliance. But, he said, the Cruise missile is not a first strike weapon because it has a delivery time of two to three hours. "It can only be a retaliatory weapon, used in cases where someone else started a nuclear war, or a war that we feel is going to mightily destroy the alliance," he said.

A motion under Standing Order 26 to adjourn the House of Commons was made by Ed Broadbent on December 21, "to discuss a special and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the advisability of the government of Canada concluding agreement with the government of the United States of America to test Cruise missile weaponry in Canada." The Speaker of the House ruled that the condition of "genuine emergency" needed for the adjournment was not met in this case.

It was reported in January that the Canadian Cabinet had signed an Order-in-Council December 23 authorizing Canada's ambassador in Washington, Allan Gotlieb, to sign the umbrella agreement. *The Citizen* (January 12) reported that, "The order also clears the way for the signing ceremony to be held in Washington rather than in Ottawa where it could be marred by embarrassing demonstrations on Parliament Hill from anti-cruise protesters."

A survey of Canadians published January 17 showed that a slim majority of Canadians opposed the cruise missile testing. The Gallup poll showed that 52 percent of the