

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition for raising that question. Of course any questions relating to Canada's sovereignty are of great importance to every Member of the House. The CBC report was slightly misleading this morning in that it suggested that licences were in the process of being issued. In fact hearings are being held. This has happened before. When it happened before we protested, and we are protesting again. In the interim of course there has been, after some 16 long years of delay and neglect, the assertion by Canada of our sovereignty over our North.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I will not accept the latter part of that answer. My predecessor, Pierre Trudeau, was very insistent on protection of that sovereignty.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED PRESENCE OF  
TWO NUCLEAR POWERED UNITED STATES SUBMARINES IN  
ARCTIC WATERS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs admitted that nuclear powered United States submarines navigate through the Canadian waters of the Arctic Ocean, but both refused to say whether the Government had authorized their presence there. So again I am asking the Secretary of State for External Affairs: Had the Canadian Government authorized in advance the presence of these American submarines in our Arctic waters? Yes or no?

[English]

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are two matters to be dealt with here. One is the question of the record of the former Government. It was so insistent on Canada's claims to sovereignty in the Arctic that it refused to let those be judged by the International Court of Justice. That indicates an absolute lack of courage and lack of conviction in our claims, and that has been reversed by this Government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** With regard to the allegations respecting submarines in Canadian waters, that question was raised and responded to the other day in the House of Commons. As the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, it would not be in anyone's interest, except for perhaps some of our adversaries, for us to be identifying with any precision the presence in our waters of United States ships of any kind. I have given guarantees in the House on Friday by which I stand.

## CANADIAN POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the Secretary of State for External

Affairs that he should quit using the national security argument as a way of ducking questions on national sovereignty. We do not want to know whether or not American submarines were in our waters. The issue is whether the Canadian Government is giving permission to those American submarines to be under our waters; that is the issue. What does the Minister know, and what permission has the Canadian Government given for those patrols under Canadian waters by American submarines?

• (1420)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is assuming there were patrols by U.S. submarines in the North.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** That is what you said.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** There have been reports of submarines having come to the surface at the North Pole. He would know there are at least four routes by which they could have reached the North Pole, one Canadian and three American. I do not propose—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Just answer the question.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** I do not propose to be drawn into a question which might lead us to indicate the presence of submarines of Canadian allies anywhere in the world where that indication might be to the benefit of countries hostile to Canada. I know full well—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Under our waters.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):**—the position taken by the Liberal Party at their convention. They decided they would adopt a nuclear weapons-free policy. The Leader shakes his head. That is what his Party did. It would take this country out of NATO. We do not propose to turn our backs on the obligation—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON DEMILITARIZATION  
OF NORTHERN WATERS

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. He referred to the stand taken at the Liberal convention. I would like to ask him about a stand taken by a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons with a majority of Conservative Members of Parliament on it. That committee clearly recommended demilitarization of Canada's northern waters. The Government rejected it. Why did the Government do so? The recommendation would provide Canada with the opportunity of securing its sovereignty in those waters so we would not have warships travelling through Canadian waters.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, demilitarization, like disarmament, in order to be effective requires at least two to play. You cannot