

Mr. Paul Nitze, Special Advisor to President Reagan on Arms Control issues, came to Ottawa on 5 March 1987 as part of US consultations with the allies about the question of reinterpreting the Treaty. After the meeting, Mr. Clark issued a statement that said the United States had reassured Canada that no move had yet been taken to move to a broad interpretation. The statement also said:

The Canadian Government has consistently supported the USA in its adherence to the strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty. Any move to a broader interpretation could have significant political and strategic ramifications for international stability and security,....Any unilateral action by either party to the Treaty that could have a negative impact on the current strategic balance would be regarded by Canada with profound concern....⁵

Parliamentary Comment

NDP member Derek Blackburn asked what steps the Government would take since "President Reagan has made clear his intention to test and deploy ABM systems outside the laboratory within 10 years?"⁶ Prime Minister Brian Mulroney replied:

I would not want to try to anticipate what may or may not happen in the next 10 years but our treaty is clear and the position of the Government of Canada with regard to ABM is clear. We have conveyed that to all Parties. There has been no change in our positions.⁷

Mr. Blackburn then further suggested that the American position on the ABM Treaty at the Reykjavik Summit demonstrated their intention of abrogating the Treaty and that the United States had misled NATO allies as to their intentions with respect to the Treaty.

⁵ DEA Statement, 87/14, 5 Mar. 1987.

⁶ Commons Debates, 14 Oct. 1986, p. 333.

⁷ Ibid.