

Oral Questions

open-skies conference, that become the policy of the whole alliance. But we do not propose to act unilaterally and, by acting unilaterally, undo one of the forces that has led to the progress we all celebrate in this House.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, why is it that the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary are prepared, each in their own way, to take unilateral action to bring down the cold war and to eliminate it when we don't have the courage to promote it ourselves?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): How can we justify encouraging the super powers not only to put the cruise missiles on the bargaining table at the START talks but to try to get the cruise missiles eliminated when we are, at the same time, promoting the development of yet a more deadly cruise, the stealth cruise, right here in our own country?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps in the NDP, where there is no prospect ever of achieving power, you can try to have things both ways. But in the real world you cannot have things both ways. You cannot, on the one hand, say that we should act unilaterally and on the other hand say that we should negotiate reductions.

We believe that the way to proceed is by negotiating reductions. That is a policy that has led to the present situation, to the present decline in tensions and that has contributed significantly to that. We believe that kind of solidarity which has worked and brought us to this stage in world events should be continued and we intend to continue to do that, through open skies and through carrying out other obligations that we have undertaken.

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[*Translation*]

• (1450)

TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport.

Last Saturday, a derailment occurred in the municipality of Val d'Or, in the course of which an American tank car spilled 78,000 litres of gasoline on the ground. On January 4, 1990, the National Transportation Agency submitted a report on defects in U.S. tank cars. Will the Minister consider the recommendations of this report with respect to American tank cars that are a hazard to Canadians and the environment as soon as possible?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we did in fact receive the report to which the Hon. Member referred. Officials at the Department of Transport are now discussing its contents, and discussions are underway with the people responsible for the cars in the United States. Obviously, Canadian regulatory review will make it possible to tighten up regulations for both American and Canadian cars.

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[*English*]

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right Hon. Prime Minister. As we move away from the cold war era and enter a new decade of East-West relations of collaboration and co-operation, Canadians are getting very excited about the opportunities that present themselves in areas of mutual interest, including the protection of our fragile Arctic.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister why, on the one hand, we are taking progressive steps such as hosting the open skies conference and yet, on the other, clinging to the past and indulging in regressive policies by allowing the continued testing of the cruise missile over Canada's north?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that question was just raised and answered and our view is quite clear about the question of the importance of maintaining an approach that has worked among western nations. There are a variety of other challenges that we now have to face, particularly challenges of helping the nations of eastern Europe, which have had the courage to make these dramatic