

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On a related issue, on 22 October 1990, Liberal MP Warren Allmand drew attention to the large numbers of nuclear weapons present in the Persian Gulf as a result of the Gulf crisis. He asked then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark to:

...take action through the United Nations to have the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union remove all nuclear weapons from the region immediately.⁴

In response, Mr. Clark spoke of the need to continue attempts to extend the United Nations mandate in the area in the hopes that a peaceful solution to the crisis would be found. Once Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was secured:

...[w]e can then get on to the serious question relating to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region, that is to try to have some means in which the stores of Iraq and those of other countries can be gradually controlled and eliminated.⁵

When pressed again on the question by Mr. Allmand, Mr. Clark responded that:

...a call by Canada...for some kind of unilateral action on nuclear weapons, on some nuclear weapons,...could well have a counterproductive effect.⁶

⁴*Commons Debates*. 22 October 1990: 14501.

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶*Ibid.*: 14502.