

In a statement released by Mr. Clark on 28 November 1986, he said:

The Government viewed with serious concern the [Reagan] Administration's announced intention in the spring and deplors the implementation of that decision today. Our views have repeatedly been conveyed to the US Administration....The Government recognizes that SALT II is not a perfect agreement and acknowledges that the USSR has not satisfactorily responded to charges of its own non-compliance with provisions of SALT II. At the same time, we believe that even an imperfect regime of restraint on the strategic arms race is better than no restraint at all.... Until [a new arms control] accord is attained, however, we consider the interests of nuclear arms control and strategic stability are best served by both the USA and USSR continuing to abide by the provisions of the SALT II agreement.<sup>4</sup>

### Parliamentary Comment

Some members of the House called upon Mr. Clark to suspend cruise missile testing as a way of protesting against the United States action with respect to the SALT II Treaty. Mr. Clark responded:

We regret the decision that has been taken by the United States with regard to the SALT II limits. We have made that clear. We have a commitment to NATO to test the airlaunch Cruise missiles. We intend to keep our word.<sup>5</sup>

Liberal member Donald Johnston pursued the question, citing paragraph 23c of the Canada-US umbrella testing agreement:

Either Government shall reserve the right to cancel, suspend, postpone or terminate any

<sup>4</sup> As quoted in "Canada views USA Decision on SALT II with Serious Concern" The Disarmament Bulletin, Winter 1986 - Spring 1987, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Commons Debates, 27 Nov. 1986, p. 1597.