

there may or may not be major strategic questions for Canada to decide. Those decisions will be taken well after the report of this..,of the joint committee that I'm trying to get established. So there is in fact a wide range of opportunities for Canadians to be involved in the large number of questions that are open on the Strategic Defence Initiative. Same thing on trade.

GRAY:               Just on that Mr. Clark, it may even be a curiosity on the trade, one of the options that the Green Paper proposes is some sort of comprehensive trade agreement with the US. Hard on the heels of your Green Paper we have the western premiers coming out in marvelous and unusual agreement on a common market trade arrangement, is this a coincidence? Did Peter Lougheed have an inside track or what? Is it the same kind of thing?

CLARK:              As far as I know it's a coincidence and if there is agreement between a group of premiers and a federal policy, long may it endure. But, no, so far as I know, that is simply a coincidence. The position of some of those premiers is not surprising, is not new. The fact that there's a consensus is important. And I guess the point I want to make is that it comes back to the fact the world won't wait for us. There are on the trade questions some clocks ticking. We can't...and to put at its coldest, if we simply said, no we're not going to make any trade decision for two years, none at all, if we said that, the...what that would cost us is quite literally thousands of Canadian jobs because there would be US protectionist action brought in that would affect our access to those markets. So that's the pressure that we're operating under.