

arms control process...."³

Parliamentary Comment

Upon learning of the involvement of the Canadian Commercial Corporation, a Crown Corporation, as a prime contractor for a SDI contract, Liberal member Douglas Frith, in November 1987, asked External Affairs Minister Joe Clark to explain the Government's guidelines concerning such involvement. Mr. Clark stated:

The Canadian Commercial Corporation is required by law... to act as an agent for Canadian companies that are involved in contracts with the United States Department of Defence. That is the exclusive and total nature of the role of the Canadian Commercial Corporation in this transaction. It is mandated by law, a law that predated the Strategic Defence Initiative.⁴

Mr. Frith pursued the questioning, asking for an amendment to the law in order to disallow such involvement:

Either a Crown corporation which is an agent of the federal Government will become involved in a peripheral or direct way, or it will not. It seems clear to me that it is in violation of the Prime Minister's commitment to the House that the Government of Canada, which I believe includes Crown corporations, should not be involved in star wars projects.⁵

³ Office of the Prime Minister, "Notes for an Address before the North Atlantic Assembly", 23 May 1987, p. 3.

⁴ Commons Debates, 16 November 1987, p. 10829.

⁵ Ibid., p. 10829.