

identify and locate others who may have been involved.³⁷ On 27 September 1988, a toll-free telephone service was established by the Department of National Defence to aid in the Government's search for such individuals, and to better enable the public to obtain information about nerve gas testing at Suffield.³⁸

On 14 December 1988, NDP Member Jim Fulton cited recent statements made by a retired Canadian Army veteran indicating that in 1947, the Canadian Army had dumped shells containing mustard gas in the Pacific Ocean.³⁹ While Defence Minister Beatty and other DND officials had responded to such claims initially by stating that "no record of such an operation existed," additional evidence had led to admissions by Colonel Conrad Mialkowski, Assistant Director General for Research and Development at National Defence Headquarters, that such dumping did in fact take place about 160 km off the coast of British Columbia.⁴⁰ Expressing concern over the Government's handling of the issue, Mr. Fulton stated:

This is a very serious matter. The Minister of National Defence advised that there were no records. Senior people in his Department advised that there were no records. When they were caught by the media,...ex-servicemen and Members of Parliament, suddenly there are records. Suddenly they claim they know exactly where the mustard gas is located, exactly when it went there and how it got there and so on.⁴¹

Mr. Beatty replied:

... we have been unable to locate anywhere in the Department of National Defence... any record of surplus stocks being dumped over 40 years ago in the Pacific.... I indicated to the Hon. Member's researcher... that if he had any evidence whatever suggesting that this was the case, we would welcome it being brought forward. That continues today.⁴²

Mr. Beatty then noted that reports of the dumping had been found in the *Victoria Times-Colonist* newspaper of the period, and that Colonel Mialkowski had made his statement about the incident based on that source.⁴³

37 *Commons Debates*, 21 September 1988, pp.19478-19479; 22 September 1988, p.19530; and 23 September 1988, pp. 19568 and 19572.

38 Department of National Defence *News Release*, 26 September 1988, and *Commons Debates*, 29 September 1988, p.19776.

39 "Army Dumped Chemical Arms: Report," *Ottawa Citizen*, 9 December 1988, p. C18.

40 "Forces Admit Mustard Gas Dumped Off B.C.'s Coast," *Vancouver Sun*, 14 December 1988.

41 *Commons Debates*, 14 December 1988, p. 57.

42 *Ibid.*, pp. 57-58.

43 *Ibid.*