Supply

The PCBs left in the equipment at the DEW Line sites are a continuing issue. Apparently, in 1985, there was a clean-up of the 21 DEW Line sites across the Canadian Arctic. We are told that subsequent testing after the clean-up in 1987 at those sites showed that residual contamination only remained at one site, Sarcpa Lake. We are told that this coming summer action will be taken to have a further clean-up of Sarcpa Lake.

The scientists say that the PCB-containing material at the DEW Line sites did not contribute to the PCB issue they are dealing with now. They say the quantities of PCBs at a number of sites across the North were isolated and small. They say that they have removed the material that was left at those sites and do not anticipate any further problems. They say also that there are no "hot spots", that the level of PCBs and pesticides across the North are relatively evenly distributed. Thus they believe that the contaminants being found are coming from sources distant from the North.

I am not convinced that these sites have all been properly cleaned up. In the Speech from the Throne the Government stated that it would further the process of cleaning up dangerous land sites. I urge the Government to pay urgent attention to the DEW Line and other waste-containing sites in the North.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference, an international organization that represents Inuit in Alaska, Greenland, Canada and, hopefully soon, the U.S.S.R., has been working for several years toward a comprehensive Arctic policy on a wide range of issues, including the environment and transboundary pollution. It has called for a comprehensive strategy which would include the following elements. The first is that serious efforts must be made to determine the sources of the transboundary pollution, and then to prevent their entry into the global environment.

Second, there must be more in-depth scientific research into all areas of the Arctic to determine the levels of existing pollutants and to monitor them in the future.

Third, we must actively encourage Arctic and other Governments to answer co-operatively to an international convention that will deal effectively with all major aspects of the transboundary pollution.

Fourth, there must be an effective communication strategy especially to inform people at the local and regional levels on an ongoing basis. Such a strategy should be carried out sensitively so as to keep the northern peoples fully aware of the potential risks and issues related to the problem without creating an atmosphere of panic or fear.

Fifth, in carrying out any comprehensive strategy it is essential that northern people's organizations have an opportunity to participate fully on a continuing basis.

I cannot stress enough the necessity and importance of Inuit participation and involvement in ongoing research and in the development of all appropriate strategies and remedies to deal with this problem. I urge the Government not to exclude the Inuit from this problem. It is affecting us and causing extreme anxiety, particularly among young mothers and mothers—to—be who worry about their children and their children's children. We are not responsible for this problem, but we want to be part of the solution.

I would now like to touch briefly on some of the comments I made earlier today in regard to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the northern Yukon and Alaska. The report entitled: "Our Common Future", the landmark report of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, reaffirmed the value of aboriginal life-styles and warned of the dangers facing aboriginal cultures. The report stated:

Tribal and indigenous cultures will need special attention as the forces of economic development disrupt their traditional lifestyles—lifestyles that can offer modern societies many lessons in the management of—resources.

Some are threatened with virtual extinction by insensitive development over which they have no control. Their traditional rights should be recognized, and they should be given a decisive voice in formulating policies about resource development in their areas.

The Commission's report recognizes the need for greater local public participation and control over resources. Protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge must be a priority of the Government. These lands, on Alaska's north coast, must continue to be designated as wilderness. U.S. legislators are considering proposals to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development.

The Governments of Canada, Yukon and the Northwest Territories are attempting to influence the decision of the U.S. Congress on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge issue. The Governments are concerned that current proposals for oil exploration and development in the area do not adequately safeguard the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd and other wildlife resources shared by Canada and the U.S. along the Canada–Alaska border. The potential harm to these