

best contribution by reaching agreement on a mandate for establishing an Ad Hoc Committee.¹⁵ Canada, he added, would welcome the beginning of such work on the basis of the mandate proposed by Czechoslovakia in August 1988.¹⁶

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On 30 May 1989, NDP Member Bill Blaikie raised the issue of nuclear testing in a statement marking International Disarm the Seas Week. After criticizing Canada and its allies for failing to address the proliferation of military activity at sea generally, Mr. Blaikie cited the "failure of the Canadian Government to address such activity in the Pacific," including French nuclear testing.¹⁷

On 7 April 1989, Liberal Member Warren Allmand raised the PTBT amending issue. Noting that the number of states required to convene such a conference had recently been attained, Mr. Allmand stated:

It is incomprehensible that the Canadian Government remains opposed to this progressive move which would open the doors to further dialogue on the reduction of nuclear arms. To doom negotiations to failure before they have begun is very unwise. We must do all we can to rid the world of life-threatening nuclear arms now, and our Government should encourage and support the amendment conference which would bring us closer to this goal.¹⁸

NDP Member Bill Blaikie raised the issue again on 25 April 1989. Addressing External Affairs Minister Clark, he stated:

The Minister will know that a Conference has...been triggered, thanks to the appropriate number of signatures being gathered at the UN, to reopen the whole matter of a comprehensive test ban treaty. Something on which the Government of Canada has also been taking the wrong position. I am asking the Minister today whether his Government is prepared to reconsider the position it has been taking on this and actively promote the arrival at a comprehensive test ban treaty.¹⁹

15 *Ibid.*

16 *Ibid.* For additional official comment on a nuclear test ban and the issue of a PTBT amending conference see: Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva, "Statement by Mr. Fred Bild, Assistant Deputy Minister for Political and International Security Affairs Department of External Affairs, Canada before the Conference on Disarmament," 20 June 1989, pp. 10-11.

17 *Commons Debates*, 30 May 1989, p. 2320.

18 *Commons Debates*, 7 April 1989, pp. 217-218.

19 *Commons Debates*, 25 April 1989, pp. 922-923.