

The joint Canadian-Soviet political declaration signed in Moscow declared that both sides favoured progress toward "the early conclusion of negotiations to reduce by 50 percent USA and USSR strategic offensive arms."<sup>14</sup>

Some aspects of the prospective START agreement worried Canadian officials, however. Ambassador for Disarmament Margaret Mason told a Commons committee in November 1989 that Canada had "signalled our concern over the setting aside of sea-launched cruise missiles [in START] and we would certainly hope that issue continues to be addressed."<sup>15</sup>

#### PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

In the House on 27 November 1989, NDP Member Bill Blaikie criticized the Prime Minister for failing to address the issue of SLCMs in his statement regarding the Moscow visit :

There is the whole question of naval arms control and the proliferation of submarine-launched cruise missiles. There was not a mention of it in the statement by the Prime Minister. This area of growing proliferation of nuclear weapons is of increasing concern.<sup>16</sup>

On 19 December 1989, in the House, Mr. Blaikie raised the issue of the MX Rail Garrison Program. He suggested that Canada protest the planned stationing of MX-equipped rail cars in Grand Forks, North Dakota, close to the Canadian border. Furthermore, he urged the government to speak now against this "inappropriate escalation of the arms race" and, failing the removal of the MX rail cars, to seek a guarantee that these trains would "never move in the direction of Canada."<sup>17</sup>

#### CURRENT REFERENCES

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<sup>14</sup> Office of the Prime Minister, *Press Release*, 22 November 1989.

<sup>15</sup> *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade*, No. 24 (7 November 1989), p. 23.

<sup>16</sup> *Commons Debates*, 27 November 1989, p. 6243.

<sup>17</sup> *Commons Debates*, 19 December 1989, p. 7192.