

decisions require the final approval of the Prime Minister, as most decisions do, this is very much an open question. And return to what I was saying about SDI, the question at issue now, the narrow question at issue has to do with whether or not we accept an invitation. We get a report back on what that invitation is some time in June. We then consider that and other facts, through the summer, maybe making a decision in the summer or in the early fall. I would like to have the benefit of the advice of Canadians through the public hearing process as to what they think about it. The NDP and the Liberals are denying Canadians the right to give that kind of advice.

CBC :           The NDP and the Liberals do represent Canadians and can therefore be, one assumes - called upon to make those kinds of comments.

CLARK :           Exactly. And that perhaps is what is at issue here. Perhaps the MPs, the spokesmen for foreign policy in the Liberal and the NDP Parties do not have enough confidence in their position that they do not want to hear from the public. Perhaps they would prefer to be the people who spoke on those issues rather than letting the people of Canada speak. I am quite prepared to hear Mr. Axworthy...

CBC :           ...and that is that the federal government is afraid to take its own positions because, you know, because it wants to go to the public, study things for a while.