

control proposals discussed at Reykjavik. He emphasized that President Reagan's refusal to limit research and development on the SDI programme had been the major stumbling block in reaching agreement at Reykjavik.¹¹

Speaking during an adjournment debate, NDP member Derek Blackburn expressed a similar view and called upon the Government to withdraw all its support for the SDI programme. Mr. Blackburn stated:

In a nutshell, the Canadian Government says it will support Star Wars only if research conforms strictly with the ABM Treaty, and the Americans say they can and will ignore the Treaty. Therefore, the Government can no longer support Star Wars....the Government began by defending SDI as prudent research to keep up with the Soviet Union. However, prudent research is exactly what President Reagan turned down by refusing to keep research in the laboratory for 10 years....Some argued that Star Wars would bring the Soviets back to the bargaining table. However, when Mr. Gorbachev came and made the concessions in offensive arms which the West had been seeking for years, President Reagan would not bargain....It has come down to a choice between Star Wars and arms control....Canada must now say no to Star Wars.¹²

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon replied:

...there is no doubt that SDI has something to do with the USSR returning to the Geneva negotiation table and the more pragmatic approach taken by the Soviets in recent months. It is unfortunate that at Reykjavik Mr. Gorbachev unilaterally chose to make SDI interruption a prerequisite of progress in other sectors of nuclear armament control.¹³

¹¹ Commons Debates, 27 Oct. 1986, p. 792.

¹² Commons Debates, 15 Dec. 1986, p. 2133.

¹³ Ibid.