

hide there; possibly in the case of submarine-launched cruise missiles, to position themselves in a place where the southern areas of Canada become vulnerable? I do not believe...that simply looking at choke points, particularly in the southeast area, would give us the adequate coverage to ensure that somebody was kept out of the north.¹¹

Liberal member Russell MacLellan asked the Secretary of State to confirm whether three US submarines passed through Canadian waters on their way to surfacing at the North Pole on 6 May 1986 and whether they had asked Canadian permission. Mr. Clark responded:

...we have a variety of ways of knowing of the presence in our waters of submarines from the United States or other countries. I do not think...it would be in the interest of anyone, and certainly not in the Canadian national interest, to reveal publicly the nature of the means by which we come to that information.¹²

Progressive Conservative member Dave Nickerson, made a statement to the House on the issue of the three US submarines surfacing at the North Pole.

He stated:

...the reluctance of the Government of Canada to give straight answers regarding the May voyage...is leading to a suspicion on the part of Canadians that their Government was unaware of these manoeuvres and is now trying to save face.¹³

Liberal leader John Turner pursued the question that same day asking "had

¹¹ SCND Proceedings, 11 Dec. 1986, p. 18.

¹² Commons Debates, 5 Dec. 1986, p. 1823.

¹³ Commons Debates, 8 Dec. 1986, p. 1869.