

In a speech to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce on 1 March 1991, Mr. Clark spoke of the difficulties inherent in trying to develop controls on arm transfers. He noted the contribution arms sales from coalition countries had made to Iraq's arsenal and the worrying trend of new supplier states.

For 45 years the search for security in the Middle East has been pursued largely through the avenue of arms. That search has failed. ...Despite billions and billions of dollars spent on arms -- what have we seen? We have seen five wars between Israel and her neighbours. We have seen Lebanon reduced to rubble. And we have this war,...[Canada's] initiatives will not, in and of themselves, address the arms trade challenge.... Action -- concerted action -- is required by others, ...but [the proposals] contribute -- and I believe they indicate our firm commitment to moving from hope to action...²

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

In response to a question from Conservative member Jean-Guy Guilbault at a hearing before the Standing Committee on External Affairs, Mr. Clark said that he was encouraged by international response to the Government initiative and said that Canada would now seek to develop a working group of states to continue planning.

...it is very important to have a number of countries of the South, that is to say, developing countries, so that such a conference is not perceived as something arranged by the rich nations...³

At the conclusion of its hearings on the question of a world summit, the Standing Committee on National Defence (SCND) issued a report on its findings. The Committee was encouraged by the Government proposal for a world summit. The Committee noted however, that nuclear, chemical and biological weapons were the subject of ongoing negotiations and treaties while the trade in conventional arms was not. Given the connections between regional instability and the conventional arms trade, the Committee recommended that "...conventional weapons transfers should be a focus of particular concern for Summit participants" and stated that:

²Department of External Affairs. "Clark: We Have an Obligation to End the Mid-East Arms Race," *Disarmament Bulletin*, no. 16, Spring 1991: 6.

³Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade. *Minutes and Proceedings*, no. 105, 21 March 1991: 37.