

NDP member Pauline Jewett asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, Erik Nielsen to outline the Soviet violations of the SALT II Treaty which the Prime Minister had said earlier were too numerous to mention. Mr. Nielsen declined, stating that "I do not believe I have the time to go into detail on the floor of the House of Commons"⁹. Ms. Jewett pursued the issue and said that "It is incumbent upon the Department [of Defence] and the Government to tell us what these violations are. I ask the Minister to do so now."¹⁰

In response to this and further questions, Mr. Nielsen referred to the ABM Treaty, but not to SALT II.

Pauline Jewett pursued the issue with Mr. Nielsen on the 13 June, again asking him to provide examples of SALT II violations and asking that he bring cruise missile testing in Canada to an end as a protest against the American decision. Mr. Nielsen responded:

There are clear breaches in the bringing on by the Soviets of the SS-25 missile. That is a clear breach. A clear breach is the construction of the Krasnoyarsk radar, that is a clear breach of SALT II.¹² It is a clear breach of SALT II to encrypt telemetry, which the Soviets are doing....If those are brought onside and the Soviet Union demonstrates that it intends to honour the provisions of SALT II surely that is the desirable situation and would lead to more greatly enhanced arms limitation agreements....¹³

Liberal member the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy asked Mr. Nielsen what measures Canada would take to express disappointment with the American decision, in particular, suggesting that Canada should refuse to test the cruise missile if the US exceeded the SALT II limits. Mr. Nielsen said:

⁹ Commons Debates, 30 May 1986, p. 13872.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 13803.

¹² The radar at Krasnoyarsk is a possible violation of the ABM Treaty.

¹³ Commons Debates, 13 June 1986, p. 14365.