

be made to the Government which will be made. It is within...the first phase where we look at the design and the shipyard. After that we will go into the construction phase...logically...we are operating with the first phase and the second phase after.²⁹

In a supplementary question, Ms. McLaughlin referred to statements made by the Defence Minister to the effect that recent budget cuts might require Canada to depend on its Allies to help defend the Arctic. Commenting that the United States did not accept Canadian claims to sovereignty in that area, the Member asked:

Will the Minister confirm that what is really happening with the Polar 8 is that this Government is prepared to put our sovereignty in the hands of foreign interests?³⁰

Mr. Clark replied:

...that is absolutely false. I know that in order to be a candidate for the leadership of the New Democratic Party one has to go to the furthest edges of extremism. The Hon. Member should resist that temptation.³¹

That same day, Liberal Member Brian Tobin also questioned the Government's commitment to the construction of the icebreaker, asking the Prime Minister:

...what has changed in the Arctic that suddenly you can walk away from your pre-election promises?³²

Mr. Mulroney replied:

The Government indicated that this was a very important instrument for the assertion of sovereignty in northern Canada which had been lacking for many years.³³

On 16 December 1988, in a statement before the House, NDP Member Audrey McLaughlin raised the issue of pollution of the Arctic environment and the need for the negotiation of a treaty on Arctic pollution. She stated:

...uncontrolled use of pesticides, chemicals and toxic substances in the Soviet Union and Europe has brought pollution to the Arctic which threatens the food supply of the Inuit. Action is needed now. Canada must show leadership.... The source of

29 *Ibid.*

30 *Ibid.*

31 *Ibid.*

32 *Ibid.*, p. 1435.

33 *Ibid.*