

not meet these criteria, and may be an element of a future nation-wide ABM system. The Soviet Union has stated that the radar is intended for space-tracking and is thus permitted under the Treaty.

Current Canadian Position

On 21 January 1985 the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, outlined the Government's position on SDI and expressed concern about its implications for the ABM Treaty.

...actual development and deployment of space-based ballistic missile defence systems by either side would transgress the limits of the ABM Treaty as currently constituted. That could have serious implications for arms control and would therefore warrant close and careful attention by all concerned. We welcome, in this regard, President Reagan's affirmation that the USA would not proceed beyond research without discussion and negotiation.¹

At the Quebec Summit in March 1985, Canada and the United States signed a declaration on international security that included a statement on the ABM Treaty. The Declaration stated:

We are agreed that [the SDI] is prudent and is in conformity with the ABM Treaty. In this regard, we agree that steps beyond research would, in view of the ABM Treaty, be matters for discussion and negotiation.²

Mr. Clark reiterated the Canadian position in the House of Commons.

...Canada intends to honour our obligations under the ABM Treaty. Not only do we intend to honour them, but we now have a document signed by the

¹ Commons Debates, 21 January 1985, p. 1502.

² Declaration by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States of America Regarding International Security, 18 March 1985.