

● (1430)

We made clear when Ambassador Reisman declared an impasse in the negotiation—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Whatever happened to him?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):—that among the things that had been put on the table that Canada could not accept were some proposals regarding regional development.

If there is progress made on the question of rules, there might then be discussion of that and other questions. Canada's interest, as it has been throughout, will be protected by the Government of Canada.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In the past the Secretary of State for External Affairs has linked the testing of the Cruise missile in Canada with progress being made in the disarmament field. Specifically, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in the House on March 2 when making the linkage between disarmament progress that, "We will determine Canadian Government policy on the basis of what is actually decided in Geneva".

Since the Soviets and the Americans, fortunately, have now reached a major INF agreement moving the world sensibly toward disarmament, why has the Government of Canada reversed its position on this very important matter?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party just quoted my words and then distorted them. I stand by the quote and not the distortion.

Mr. Hees: Way to go, Joe!

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I, and many Canadians, at the time thought that the Secretary of State for External Affairs was linking the testing of the Cruise missile with progress being made in the disarmament field.

I wish to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs was that not the basic position of the Government. Is the Government saying to the people of Canada that, even if we continue to make at long last significant progress in this world between the superpowers, moving toward disarmament, the Canadian Government will continue to test Cruise missiles here?

Oral Questions

Why does the Canadian Government not clearly live up to the implication left with the people of Canada? Why does it not make a contribution toward disarmament instead of moving in the opposite direction?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my words are clear. They are on the record, and they have just been read by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. He drew an interpretation from them that he claims is a legitimate interpretation. I would quarrel with that. I think my words speak for themselves.

Let us come to the question as to how this country contributes to progress on arms control.

It is the position of the New Democratic Party that this country contributes to progress in arms control by breaking up NATO, which is what they would do by running away from NATO obligations.

If that position has been adopted by the Government of Canada, if the Soviets had been successful in finding such a dupe in the offices of the Government of Canada who would take the country out of NATO, then we would not have the agreement in principle that was achieved by Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze.

I do not propose to put those types of agreement at risk to meet some ideological commitment of the New Democratic Party here in Canada.

Ms. Jewett: Oh, Joe, sit down.

Mr. Hees: Way to go, Joe.

Mr. Siddon: There is no strength in weakness.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, all I would say is that one would hope that in a matter as serious as this when there is a specific question on disarmament, the Secretary of State for External Affairs would have the courtesy to the public of Canada to deal with the question that is asked instead of raising a red herring.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: I do not wish to distort the argument of the Minister, because I understood his argument. I will ask him to explain what he meant. On March 2 he stated, in a way that I understood, that there was a linkage to be made between Cruise testing and disarmament agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States. Would he tell us what he meant when he said, "We will determine Canadian government policy on the basis of what is actually decided in Geneva"?