

Defence Minister Bill McKnight replied:

I would like to take the Hon. Member back to 1983, the last time his Party was in Government. Based in Central Europe, Canadian forces joined with allies, had 5,400 troops. There has been an additional 2,000 troops added. There will be more troops added this summer.⁴⁷

Interest in the NATO SNF debate continued throughout May 1989, with members of both the Liberal and New Democratic parties calling for strong Canadian efforts to help facilitate Allied agreement on the issue.⁴⁸ As the Summit concluded, comment was heard in the House on the compromise the Allies had finally achieved, and Canada's role in securing it. On 30 May 1989, Liberal Member Ross Stevenson commented:

...the compromise within NATO on a position for the reduction of short-range nuclear weapons was a major accomplishment. Our Prime Minister...and Secretary of State for External Affairs...have played an important role in achieving this compromise.⁴⁹

NDP Member Bill Blaikie also commented on the results of the Summit. On 31 May 1989, he stated that the NATO Agreement

...is predicated on a guarantee that there will be no elimination of short-range nuclear weapons. It seems to me that any negotiation and any agreement worth this planet would...at least head toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. I think the Government of Canada, the Prime Minister...and the Secretary of State for External Affairs...are not doing themselves any service by boasting about an agreement in which they had a part the essence of which is the preservation of short-range nuclear weapons.⁵⁰

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47 *Ibid.*

48 See, for instance, *Commons Debates*, 12 May 1989, p. 1647; 19 May 1989, p. 1962; and 26 May 1989, p. 2199.

49 *Commons Debates*, 30 May 1989, p. 2317.

50 *Commons Debates*, 31 May 1989, p. 2368.