

weapons must proceed to counter continued Soviet developments in this area.

Responding to questioning in the House on the Canadian support for the NATO decision, the Associate Minister of National Defence, Harvie Andre, stated:

We fully endorse the position taken in 1970 that Canada will not have chemical weapons, will not use chemical weapons, will not produce them, and will not keep them in store....In the meantime the Soviets continued with production and have built up their chemical capabilities. In order to maintain the deterrence which is what NATO is all about - to avoid war - it is deemed prudent by all NATO countries that the US increase or modernize its chemical capability for the maintenance of that deterrence and peace.¹⁴

Canada is involved in a quadripartite agreement with the United States, Britain and Australia to share biological and chemical warfare research. The Canadian Government states that it contributes information for defensive measures against attacks from the Warsaw Pact countries.

Parliamentary Comment

On 24 February 1986, Jim Fulton from the NDP, asked the Minister of National Defence "how much is being spent right now on the production of chemical weapons and defensive chemical weapons in Canada?" The Minister, Erik Nielsen, replied that no chemical weapons were being produced in Canada.¹⁶ Later, Mr. Fulton told the House that the Department of National Defence had confirmed that some chemical weapons were produced in Canada; Soman, Sarin, Tabun and VX, described in a Government handbook as chemical warfare lethal agents, are produced in very small quantities in Canada.¹⁷

¹⁴ Commons Debates, 23 May 1986, p. 13562.

¹⁶ Commons Debates, 24 February 1986, p. 10889.

¹⁷ Commons Debates, 4 March 1986, pp. 1115-7.

¹⁸ United Nations Office at Geneva, Press Release DC/1376, 25 March 1986.