

*Borrowing Authority*

cuts in expenditures. They are cuts in what the Government expected to spend.

The Minister of National Defence has stated that our allies will maintain Arctic sovereignty. I want to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, what that same Minister was presenting as policy when he was Minister responsible for northern development. In 1988 in one of his PR glossy brochures, on which the Government has no qualms about spending money, a brochure entitled: "A Northern Political and Economic Framework", the Minister confirmed the Government's commitment to the political evolution of the North. One of the so-called essential goals outlined states: "To examine the role and activities of the federal Government in the North as they relate to the northern dimension of Canadian foreign policy and the strengthening of Canadian-Arctic sovereignty".

When Northerners received this message, we thought that the Government was finally interested in the North and the vital role it plays in security for Canada. Northerners have had years of Cruise missile tests. We have also had the experience of a CFS base closure in Inuvik, thanks again to the Government, so we know what Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and the other areas are facing. This is not a new problem to us.

When the Minister of DIAND referred to the North in relation to Canadian foreign policy, we thought the Government was going to then develop a security Green Paper.

Canada needs a defence policy, not in terms of Cruise missile tests, but in the service of an over-all security strategy emphasizing economic, environmental, and non-military elements of security. However, the Department of External Affairs has shown no initiative in this regard.

In February, I wrote to the Minister of National Defence with these positive recommendations. To date I have received no response. It is typical of the Government not to want a debate or public scrutiny on a proposed policy.

Northerners have lots of experience with sovereignty. After all, we can claim traditional use and occupancy of the Arctic and Arctic waters. We do not need nuclear submarines to make those claims known to the United

States or to the Soviet Union. The federal Government has given no recognition to the North and the role it plays in enhancing Canada's foreign policy.

The Northwest Territories is a full participant in the circumpolar world. Our people and our Government are leading actors in many of the events and issues which shape international polar activities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories participates in the Canada/U.S.S.R Arctic Science Exchange. This program has shown that the Government of the Northwest Territories is well ahead of the U.S.S.R. in developing northern construction and some aspects of education.

The Government of the Northwest Territories also plays an important role in environmental issues. That Government is part of the Canadian delegation to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, and is a full member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. We are active in international efforts to prepare a circumpolar conservation strategy. Canada's polar bear management program, largely developed by our Government, was praised as a leading international example of wildlife management at a recent conference on sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has taken a leading role in dealing with issues which justice and education must face in a northern setting. We have hosted, and will continue to host, conferences on those topics which bring together representatives from Governments in Alaska, Yukon, Greenland, and polar nations around the world.

Northerners have much to gain from these exchanges, and the Northwest Territories will continue to be a leading participant in the circumpolar world. Our Government will continue to assist aboriginal groups, such as Indigenous Survival International, which are taking lead roles in promoting aboriginal interests throughout the world.

I had the opportunity and privilege to be involved with the North's display of traditional and modern ways of life at the British Museum in London. I applaud Northerners for an outstanding achievement in such a prestigious international event.