

During his statement before the CD, Ambassador Shannon also tabled a paper describing Canada's first national Trial Inspection carried out in an organic synthesis laboratory at the Defence Research Establishment, Suffield. He expressed the hope that the results of the trial would prove to be a useful contribution to the work of the *ad hoc* Committee on Chemical Weapons.³³

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On 4 April 1990, NDP Member Bill Blaikie questioned the Government about the proliferation and use of chemical weapons in the world:

My question...has to do with the heightened concern around the world about the spread and use of chemical weapons as a result of the Iraqi threat against Israel the other day and the well-known fact that these chemicals are being stockpiled in various places by various nations.

I want to ask the government whether it intends to show more leadership on this issue. Specifically, does it intend to use its seat on the Security Council of the United Nations to provoke new international momentum with respect to a total ban on chemical weapons and an international context in which nations which threaten not only to possess but to use these kinds of weapons are brought to heel?³⁴

Mr. Patrick Boyer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, replied:

The hon. member's question is extremely timely. The statement by President Hussein in relation to chemical weapons is one the Government of Canada condemns as being of an extremely bellicose nature in an area that is already tense and it in no way advances the cause of peace.

I would like to raise two points in answer to the hon. member's specific question. First, Canada as a nation does not export to Iraq any equipment, material, chemicals or substances that could be used in the development of chemical weapons.

Second, in relation to the question of the Security Council, this is a point that I will bring to the attention to the Secretary of State for External Affairs because I think the leadership role that Canada can play in this, as the hon. member suggests, is very timely and important and the Government of Canada would like to do that.³⁵

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Commons Debates*, 4 April 1990, pp. 10181-10182.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 10182.