

course because what they are doing is in the first instance denying Parliament the opportunity to discuss the broad range of foreign policy. Secondly, perhaps more importantly, they are denying that opportunity to the public of Canada which for the first time in history by the process we are proposing would have a voice directly in foreign policy decisions. And thirdly and the most curious part of their position is that if they would let us go ahead with the committee that we want to establish now we could begin immediately public discussion of Canada's response to the invitation to take part in research in the strategic defence initiative. We could begin immediately public discuss of trade questions. In other words, we could begin immediately those questions they say they want to discuss if they would let us establish the committee. But they won't.

CBC :            Now, however, your own timetable is suggesting, your own suggestions were that those kinds of issues would be decided before discussion of the green paper certainly was concluded.

CLARK :            Of course, before it is concluded. I mean, some of those decisions will be taken before the end of next May. The government of Canada can't stop. But I have also made the point consistently that naturally a government is going to want to take account of public opinion as it has been expressed as we go along the process of making decisions. Let's take the question of SDI. What is at issue here is a narrow question as to whether or not Canada accepts an invitation to