

into discussions with the United States to see if there was some way we could have an arrangement that would serve their legitimate security interests and respect our sovereignty....I want to make the point that if there is a failure in those discussions, or if we are not satisfied that Canadian sovereignty will be respected, we are prepared to defend our claims to our North before the International Court of Justice....⁵

During an interview with US journalists prior to the Canada-US Summit, Prime Minister Mulroney stated this position further:

We are...aware of certain international, geopolitical realities where Canada as a friend and ally will seek to reach a mutually beneficial accommodation. But on the fundamental issue of sovereignty we expect the United States in the course of ongoing negotiations to recognize that and to reach an agreement with Canada.⁶

In the Defence White Paper delivered to the House in June the Government outlined its view of the situation in the Arctic. The Paper stated that the development of nuclear power for submarines has meant that the Arctic has become a viable passageway between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans.

In a period of tension or war, Soviet submarines could seek to operate off the deep channels of the Canadian Archipelago to intercept Allied submarines entering the Arctic...the Soviets might use these channels in war to reach patrol areas in the North Atlantic,...the Canadian Navy must be able to determine what is happening under the ice in the Canadian Arctic, and to deter hostile or potentially hostile intrusions.⁷

The White Paper announced a Government decision to purchase 10-12

⁵ Commons Debates, 23 Mar. 1987, p. 4446.

⁶ Prime Minister Mulroney, Interview with Meet the Press, 5 Apr. 1987.

⁷ DND, Challenge and Commitment, p. 50.