

discussions and correspondence with other of our allies to work out a way that will allow the alliance to find an agreement enabling us to proceed with modernization and negotiation.<sup>41</sup>

On 11 May 1989, Mr. Blaikie asked for clarification of information that Mr. Clark had made a proposal aimed at resolving the Alliance debate over SNF modernization.<sup>42</sup> In response, the Minister explained that while Canada had made some proposals and had received some responses to them, the sensitivity of the discussions precluded him from disclosing precise details about the process.<sup>43</sup> Nevertheless, he noted:

...a fundamental element of our position is that there should not be...the "third zero,"...a situation in which there is an absolute removal of SNF. Canada and other NATO partners, including West Germany...agreed to weapons..."up to date as necessary".... We adhere to that position. We believe there should also be negotiations, and we are looking for some way in which the two can be linked.<sup>44</sup>

Mr. Clark concluded:

...our preoccupation at the moment - this is not a new Canadian role in NATO - is trying to bridge differences, trying to ensure that countries can come to Canada.... The Canadian preferred position would be to have some linkage between modernization and negotiation, to have an explicit indication that we would not end up with a third zero. Both the Netherlands and Canada are trying to encourage countries that do not yet agree to move towards agreement. That is what we are doing, and it is a continuing process.<sup>45</sup>

That same day, Liberal Member William Rompkey raised questions in the House concerning Canada's NATO commitments in light of the recent budget cuts:

One year ago in Lahr...the Prime Minister said " - we will refit all our forces in Europe with appropriate equipment. Our attitude is simple: you are the best. We want you to have the best equipment to do a tough job -." In the past several days the Government has reneged on its commitment to increase Canadian forces in Germany and supply them with tanks. How can the Minister square the statement of the Prime Minister made in Germany...with the decisions taken in the last two weeks?<sup>46</sup>

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41 *Ibid.*

42 Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, *Proceedings*, 11 May 1989, p. 14.

43 *Ibid.*, p. 14.

44 *Ibid.*, pp. 14-15.

45 *Ibid.*, p. 15.

46 *Commons Debates*, 11 May 1989, p. 1601.