

Despite this position the local authorities in approximately 170 municipalities across Canada have declared their areas nuclear-free. Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories have each declared themselves to be NWFZs. As a result of these declarations, approximately sixty percent of the Canadian population resides in locally declared NWFZs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

Proposals to make Canada a nuclear weapon-free zone have been put forward in the House of Commons on several occasions. The New Democratic Party (NDP) has been a strong supporter of bills declaring Canada a NWFZ. In the past it has put forward motions, for example, calling for a prohibition of "the deployment, testing, construction and transportation of nuclear weapons and associated equipment through and within Canada, [and] the export of goods and materials for use in the construction and deployment of nuclear arms," while calling on the Government to "encourage cities, provinces and states throughout the world to undertake similar action."³

On 19 February 1990, NDP Member Svend Robinson asked the Government to prohibit ships carrying nuclear weapons from using the port of Vancouver. Mr. Robinson stated:

... on April 19, 1983, Vancouver City Council representing the citizens of the city of Vancouver, declared the city to be a nuclear weapons free zone. Despite that fact, the Government of Canada continues to invite nuclear-armed U.S. ships into the harbour of Vancouver.

Recently, a group of courageous Greenpeace protesters were acquitted on mischief charges for having spray painted peace symbols and radio activity warnings on visiting U.S. warships in August of last year.

The learned trial judge, Wallace Craig, said he found it "remarkable that the government sees fit to invite this type of equipment into Vancouver in view of the serious concerns people have about it. It almost invites protest".

In June of last year the Secretary of State for External Affairs said in this House: "When there are nuclear weapons there are going to be accidents".

I call upon the Conservative government to respect the wishes of the people of Vancouver and to refuse to allow any more nuclear weapons equipped ships in our harbour, to take a strong stand for peace and a clean environment.⁴

³ *Commons Debates*, 31 August 1987, p. 8627.

⁴ *Commons Debates*, 19 February 1990, p. 8495.