

Parliamentary Comment

During SCEAIT hearings Liberal member Don Johnston suggested that Canadian involvement in a space station associated with SDI would be a violation of the Government's policy on SDI.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Johnston raised the question again in the House of Commons with respect to Canada-US talks that had occurred in Washington on the space station issue. Mr. Johnston asked whether the Government was now satisfied that the space station would not be used for military purposes. Mr. Clark replied:

...I am not satisfied with the answer we got from the US authorities....the Canadian Government will insist on the interpretation that was given by the United States Administration when the project was announced. Use for defence purposes was supposed to be very minimal.<sup>4</sup>

NDP member David Orlikow asked about the Government's reaction to statements by the US Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger, which implied the space station would be used for SDI-related activities. Mr. Clark stated that this was still only the position of Secretary Weinberger and not yet the official policy of the US Administration. Canada believed that the original agreement should be respected.<sup>5</sup>

At hearings before the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology (SCRST) officials from the Department of External Affairs answered questions about the space station programme and its possible military use by the United States. Mr. R. J. L. Berlet, Director General for the Technology and Investment Bureau at the Department of External Affairs pointed out that there were some "military uses" of the space station that might interest Canada and would be consistent with

<sup>3</sup> SCEAIT Proceedings, 21 Jan. 1987, p. 29.

<sup>4</sup> Commons Debates, 13 Feb. 1987, p. 3409.

<sup>5</sup> Commons Debates, 9 Apr. 1987, p. 5007.