

That this House recognizes the pivotal role that NATO continues to play in mutual security and defence and in further progress in arms control and disarmament and, therefore, reaffirms its commitment to continued Canadian participation in and active support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a primary instrument of Canadian defence policy.¹⁵

Mr. Hopkins then proceeded to criticize the Government's defence policy in broad terms.

Responding to the motion, Associate Minister for National Defence Mr. Paul Dick remarked that, while he would like to support the motion, failure of the Liberal Member to speak to its substance prevented him from doing so.¹⁶

NDP Member Derek Blackburn opposed the motion on different grounds. He stated:

Unfortunately, NATO has failed to date to come to grips with the issue of arms control and disarmament. It has pursued consistently aggressive, deep strike policies. That is not what the world wants. The world does not want the superpowers to be backed up by their two treaty organizations egging them on, pushing them on to greater sophistication in the means of destruction they have at their command. What we need, and what we can do for ourselves, is to pursue the defence of North America in conventional terms....¹⁷

The debate on the motion also gave rise to criticism of the Government's

¹⁵ Commons Debates, 4 March 1988, pp. 13400-01.

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 13405.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 13427.