

refusing to test the missile or allow cruise-missile vessels in Canadian waters.

Pointing to the history of the discussion of NWFZs in other areas, Mr. Young said:

Discussion of the concept of a nuclear weapons-free zone has a long history in some parts of the world. In Canada the legislature of the Province of Manitoba passed a resolution declaring that province a nuclear weapons-free zone. Over 80 municipalities in Canada have declared themselves nuclear weapons-free zones. Last year nearly half a million Canadians signed a peace petition calling for, among other things, a nuclear weapons-free zone in Canada.⁸

He went on to say:

It is time for Canada to take the initiative in this area. Canada has viewed its options too narrowly and has not been willing to take an independent enough foreign policy position....Making Canada a nuclear weapons-free zone will set an example for others in the world and will be a concrete step toward making the world a safe place⁹

Liberal member Jean-Robert Gauthier stated that "we are neither for nor against the concept of a nuclear weapons-free zone in Canada"¹⁰ and asked that the issue be referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. In October, Liberal member Charles Caccia repeated the Liberal desire that the issue go to committee to allow a full public debate. The issue "has an outlook and breadth of scope that, in consideration of the present international climate, deserves the full attention of all interested parliamentarians".¹¹

⁸ Commons Debates, 10 October 1985, p. 7573.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Commons Debates, 18 March 1985, p. 3135.

¹¹ Commons Debates, 10 October 1985, p. 7575.