

renewal, and the terms surrounding it, were made clear on 6 March 1987 in a statement to the House by the Associate Minister of National Defence:

The agreement has always been and still is, liable to termination at any time by either party giving 12 months' notice.... Either party can terminate a specific arrangement under the agreement - for example, cruise missile testing - at any time on one day's notice should imperative circumstances so warrant.... We have repeatedly stated our intention to carry on, and will do so, but this in no way precludes second thoughts should circumstances change.<sup>2</sup>

The first term of the umbrella testing agreement officially ended on 28 February 1988. Its renewal now extends the agreement to 1993.

Agreement to test the cruise missile has generated considerable public debate. Some Canadians have felt that it has compromised Canada's position on nuclear weapons and has contributed to the arms race. Concern has also been voiced regarding the potential harm which such tests could have on Canadian citizens and the environment, if anything went wrong. In announcing individual tests, however, the Canadian Government has assured Canadians that the flight of the cruise missile will never be closer than eight kilometres "to any built-up area."

To date, twelve tests of the AGM-86B Air-launched Cruise Missile have been carried out. These include one in 1984, three in 1985, two in 1986, three in 1987, and two in 1988. One test has thus far been carried out in 1989. Following several delays, due to unfavourable weather conditions, the test occurred on 30 January 1989. The missile was released over the Beaufort Sea by a US B-52 bomber, and later intercepted by Canadian CF-18 and US F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft. The test was considered by military authorities to have been successful.

Criticism of the test was registered at a news conference held in Toronto, by members of Greenpeace, and federal Opposition parties. There, participants urged the Canadian Government to cancel the bilateral testing agreement in a gesture of support for improved superpower relations.<sup>3</sup>

#### *CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION*

On 13 January 1989, in a speech at the University of Calgary, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark discussed the Government's rationale for permitting cruise missile testing over Canadian territory. Mr. Clark stated:

Canada, as an ally, must continue to honour its obligation to make a contribution to the defence of the West. This will require active participation in NATO forces. It will require that we support the viability of the American strategic deterrent which underpins NATO's security. For example, we cannot shirk our responsibility to permit the continued testing of air launched cruise missiles

<sup>2</sup> *Commons Debates*, 6 March 1987, p. 3918..

<sup>3</sup> Richard Hoffman, "Peace Movement Quiet as Cruise Tests Resume." *Ottawa Citizen*, 23 January 1989, p. A5.