

Current Canadian Position

On 14 October 1986, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney reiterated the Canadian position on the US Strategic Defense Initiative that had been established in September 1985. He stated:

...although this Canadian Government will not agree to take part in the government-to-government development of this policy and in the research involved, I think...that in the circumstances and considering the activities being deployed by the other side, it was a prudent gesture on the part of the United States and the Alliance to undertake research in this field.¹

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon expanded on the support the Government gives to the SDI by stating the Government's support for a move to a more defence dominated world less dependent on deterrence. He stated:

...both superpowers should indeed consider the possibility of jointly and progressively abandoning a deterrent system based on guaranteed mutual destruction through offensive nuclear weapons and opt instead for defensive systems combined with reduced arsenals of offensive weapons. This was the position of the American negotiators at the Geneva discussions on nuclear and space armament and we supported it.²

In a statement following the visit of Mr. Paul Nitze, Special Advisor to the US President on arms control, Mr. Clark elaborated on this position:

We believe...that any transition to a greater dependence on strategic defences should be

¹ Commons Debates, 14 Oct. 1986, p. 330.

² Commons Debates, 15 Dec. 1986, p. 2133.