

the NATO Ministerial Meeting at Halifax, Mr. Clark said:

Regrettably, the Soviet record of compliance has raised so many questions that the United States itself now no longer feels compelled to abide by the SALT II agreement. That is a profoundly disturbing development and one we hoped could have been avoided. Let us hope the Soviet record improves and that President Reagan's May 27 announcement is not the final word on the issue.<sup>3</sup>

On 27 May 1986 Mr. Clark issued a statement on the American decision on SALT II. He said:

We welcomed the President's decision even in the absence of a satisfactory Soviet response to dismantle a Poseidon submarine last June and his plan to scrap two Poseidons when the next Trident submarine goes to sea. We are, however, very concerned about the implications of the President's stated intention to exceed SALT II limits late this year....It is our fervent hope that in the time remaining before the end of the year the USSR and the USA will reach an understanding on means to ensure continued respect for the limits of the SALT II accord....<sup>4</sup>

### Parliamentary Comment

A Liberal member, the Honourable Warren Allmand, expressed concern over the American decision:

The unilateral decision by the United States could lead to a massive escalation in the arms race and significantly threaten the peace and existence of all nations, not just the US and the Soviet Union. In these grave circumstances I urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), with his NATO allies, to make

<sup>3</sup> DEA Statement 86/34, 29 May 1986.

<sup>4</sup> DEA Statement 86/33, 27 May 1986.