

The government asserts complete sovereignty over the Canadian Arctic and recognizes that sovereignty requires a vigorous national presence. My government has drawn straight baselines around the perimeter of the Arctic archipelago to preserve Canadian sovereignty over the land, sea, and ice of the Canadian Arctic. Canada will construct one of the most powerful icebreakers in the world to enhance our sovereign rights and to contribute to the development of the North.²

In its response to the Special Joint Committee Report on International Relations the Government stated:

The government recognizes the importance of developing a coherent set of policies for the Arctic, including foreign policy. The major, closely interlinked components of policy will be: a) buttressing sovereignty over Arctic waters; b) modernizing northern defences; c) preparing for commercial use of the Northwest Passage, and d) expanding circumpolar relations, including contacts among northerners.³

The Government also stated that: "it would explore ways of expanding...bilateral and multilateral relations with all northern states" but said that because of the Soviet presence in the Arctic and likely Soviet unwillingness to cooperate, a demilitarized zone in the Arctic "does not seem practicable".⁴

Responding to questioning in the House of Commons, Mr. Clark made the following statement regarding ongoing negotiations with the US on Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic:

In September 1985, when we announced the dramatic action to assert Canada's sovereignty over our North, I also indicated that we would be entering

² Commons Debates, 1 Oct. 1986, p. 13.

³ DEA, Canada's International Relations, Dec. 1986, p. 85.

⁴ Ibid., pp. 86-87.