

Q: ... not make the decision then on SDI before the Committee has reported?

SSEA: No, no. I'm not saying that. That's not the position I'm putting forward. I'm saying we have to make a decision some time in the next 3 to 4 months on one aspect of the question, the invitation from the Americans. It would be very helpful for us to receive the views of Canadians as one element on which we base our judgment and if the Committee that we want to establish wants to take that into account, I'd welcome that. But that can't be done if the Liberals and the NDP continue to oppose the establishment of a Committee. I guess the other thing to say about SDI is that we all know that it is a long, long process. As I described it in the House, it's hypothetical. Final strategic decisions won't be taken on SDI for 4 or 5 years. That would certainly be after the report of a Committee, if a Committee gets a chance to exist. But, right now, the Opposition parties are stopping it from existing.

Q: Then, what you're saying is that you can wait until September or October if your 3 or 4 months, by my calculations, that would take us in September or October, before the Government would feel that it might have to make a decision on research?

SSEA: I'm saying that the Government will take a decision on a timetable that makes sense to Canada. If the Americans try to impose a shorter timetable, we won't accept that ...

Q: Yes, but, sir, you said 3 to 4 months, that presumably is September or October ...

SSEA: I'm assuming that some time in the next 3 to 4 months, the Government will want to respond to the invitation of the United States and I would welcome the opportunity to hear from Canadians on that and I'd really hope that the Liberals and the Opposition will let Canadians speak.

Q: Mr. Clark, you said June or July at the Committee last week.

SSEA: No. What I said to the Committee last week, when you check the record, is that we expect some time in June to hear from Dr. Kroeger. His report which is an expert report on a limited aspect of the invitation is one of the elements we'll consider. Another element we'd consider would be public opinion if the public is given a chance by the Liberals and the NDP to express their opinion.

Q: M. Clark, vous dites que vous êtes prêt à attendre le rapport du Comité, un rapport du Comité sur la Guerre des étoiles avant de prendre une décision. Est-ce que c'est ça?

SEAE: Non, je ne veux pas avoir d'échéances artificielles. Je n'ai pas accepté l'échéance artificielle des Américains et je ne veux pas accepter une autre échéance artificielle. Mais je veux avoir l'avis