

support for the disarmament proposals discussed at Reykjavik

Such a resolution would incorporate the very strong and unmistakable commitment to honour the Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty requirements of 1972 that there be no testing and development of space-related weapons other than those that are in laboratories or on fixed-ground sites.¹⁰

Mr. Axworthy went on to say that the stumbling block at Reykjavik had been President Reagan's failure to agree to limit research and development on SDI for 10 years.

That is what the ABM Treaty requires. It is not such a big concession. It is not such a major threat to security. Research would continue in the laboratories but it would not get to the point where there would be a series of prototypes in outer space....I rise...to express my deep regret...that the Government has withdrawn from its previous position.¹¹

Mrs. Pauline Browes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment, responded:

We have been assured by the USA that SDI research is being conducted within the restrictive interpretation of the ABM Treaty....We are satisfied with the assurances we have received from the administration.¹²

At hearings before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, Liberal member Don Johnston asked Mr. Clark whether he believed Article V of the ABM Treaty ruled out the pursuit of SDI. Mr. Clark responded that "It is our view that it would not rule out research on the Strategic Defence Initiative."¹³

¹⁰ Commons Debates, 27 Oct. 1986, p. 792.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid., p. 793.

¹³ Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade Proceedings, 21 Jan. 1987, p. 10.