

Hon. Member's statement is absolute nonsense.... I am advised by the Minister [for External Affairs] that the organizers have assured us they have invited no South Africans to attend ARMX, including South African diplomats in Canada.²⁵

Later in the debate, Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs) John McDermid stated:

A close examination of Canada's defence industry will reveal that we produce very little bellicose equipment. Those defence goods that we do produce have earned us an enviable reputation around the world for civil applications. One need only cite simulator technology, short take-off and landing aircraft, navigation systems and communication technology.²⁶

Liberal MP André Ouellet rose in the House to voice his concerns about ARMX-1989:

...[W]e clearly distinguish between the requirements and commitments of our Armed Forces within such organizations as NATO and NORAD on the one hand, and this profitable and scandalous effort to sell weapons to Third World countries. Therefore, I just cannot condone what has become of this arms bazaar, a private concern, and a very big one at that, for the promotion of those who want to make big bucks with the sale of military equipment.²⁷

Following an explanation of the Canadian Government position on export control policies, MP Dan Heap queried:

...[W]hen we sell goods to the United States...we do not know whether they will wind up sold or given by the United States to the Contras in Nicaragua, or to the Salvadoran army in El Salvador to strafe and bomb civilians.... It appears quite legal for those countries to do this because we have not required any statement from them about end use.... When the Minister talked about the restriction on exports to certain countries in certain categories, and spoke about countries with a persistent record of violence against their citizens,...he did not mention that the Government has refused to identify which countries are currently under that restriction. Therefore, it is impossible for us to evaluate how subjective or accurate the Government's identification may be.²⁸

Mr. McDermid replied:

...We have verification procedures.... [I]n a large number of cases the export permit must be reviewed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs himself. Once a permit is issued trained officials seek assurances that goods

25 *Commons Debates*, 19 May 1989, pp. 1983-84.

26 *Commons Debates*, 19 May 1989, p. 1991.

27 *Commons Debates*, 19 May 1989, p. 1988.

28 *Commons Debates*, 19 May 1989, pp. 1992-1993.