

accept any limitations that would preclude unilateral US decisions to use the station for military activities. This brought the international negotiations to a temporary halt while the US Departments of Defense and of State tried to settle the dispute.

**Current Canadian Position**

Responding to questions during a hearing before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade (SCEAIT), Mr. Clark outlined the Canadian position on possible military use of the space station.

We were in touch with the United States on Friday, January 16. We indicated that we would be seriously concerned about activities aboard the space station which might constitute a reorientation of the primarily civilian character of the program.<sup>1</sup>

The Minister of State for Science and Technology, Frank Oberle, told the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology, that in order to give the space station a useful "strategic military position" the design of the station would have to be changed.

...the station is designed to be operating near an equatorial orbit, which makes it of absolutely no strategic use for any military purposes....I made a public announcement and said if it should be the intention [of the US] to integrate this Space Station into SDI we would not be partners....Nor would the Europeans be partners....That sent an important signal to NASA and the State Department and the Pentagon that if they have any intentions other than those contained in the President's invitation...they had better state them right away and know what the consequences would be.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SCEAIT Proceedings, 21 Jan. 1987, p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology Proceedings, 2 Mar. 1987, pp. 34-35.