

that in the case of testing done outside it was between 1.4 and 1.5 kilograms of nerve gas that was used in an area of 2 square miles from which everybody else was excluded at the time the tests were conducted. At the present time we are negotiating in Geneva on the quantities countries can have for their own testing and the suggested level is 1,000 kilograms. This is 1.4 to 1.5 kilograms.³⁴

On 23 June 1988, NDP Member Jim Fulton questioned the safety of the open air tests being conducted at the Suffield experimental site. Mr. Fulton addressed the Minister of National Defence, Perrin Beatty:

The Minister has stated these tests pose no danger, but...the Deputy Director of Mountain Region of Labour Canada...has confirmed that on May 26, 1986, there was a near fatal accident at Suffield involving two researchers who were exposed to lethal nerve gas. In fact the experimental station was evacuated and the researchers were hospitalized, one for a lengthy period.³⁵

Mr. Fulton then asked how Mr. Beatty squared this information with assurances he had given that the tests at Suffield posed no health risks.³⁶ Mr. Beatty replied:

I understand that in 1986 a World War II shell which contained nerve gas was found on the range. In the process of decontaminating it one of the technicians had an accident and two technicians were exposed to gas. Both of them were taken in for medical treatment and both of them were released immediately afterward. In follow-up studies, neither one suffered long-term damage at all.³⁷

34 Ibid..

35 Commons Debates, 23 June 1988, p. 16765.

36 Ibid..

37 Ibid..