

On a more sympathetic note, and speaking about the idea of NWFZ in general, the Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, said that one of Canada's goals at the Third Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is

...to reiterate Canada's strong sympathy for the concept of regional nuclear weapons-free zones as specified in the NPT where these are feasible and seem likely to contribute to stability.⁶

Parliamentary Comment

NDP member Les Benjamin, sponsor of Bill C-218, stated:

There may be some who call the Bill anti-American or anti-NATO, but we have no commitment or no responsibility to NATO on nuclear weapons and there is no disloyalty in excusing ourselves from our friends' company while they are engaged in an activity which is morally wrong and not in our best interest.

.....

It is impossible for this Bill to protect immediately the people of Canada from nuclear war....However, it does protect us from the ignorance of nuclear deterrent advocates and the false sense of security that they create in the minds of Canadians when they expose their simplistic myth of maintaining nuclear balance.⁷

Mr. Benjamin emphasized Canada's role as a peacekeeper and suggested that making Canada a NWFZ was consistent with Canadian support of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Neil Young, in presenting his motion to declare Canada a nuclear arms-free zone, also emphasized that Canada's reputation as a peacekeeper gave it a role to play.

He suggested that Canada should let the United States know that it is against the cruise missile and its potential role in limited nuclear war by

⁶ Douglas Roche, An Address to the York University Conference on the Third Review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Toronto, 16 May 1985, p. 10.

⁷ Commons Debates, 18 March 1985, p. 3132.