

NDP spokesman John Brewin explained that, notwithstanding the economic benefits of the proposed contracts, his Party opposed changes "permitting the import and export of automatic weapons anywhere in the world." He continued:

...the Liberal Party wants this bill moved quickly to second reading where it can receive technical amendments. The issue before the House today is the principle of this bill. We in the New Democratic Party are firmly and unalterably opposed to this bill which will permit the export of automatic weapons anywhere in the world and runs completely counter to every effort to restrain arms sales: the bane of the existence of humanity in this century.

Just as the government begins an effort or said it was beginning an effort to try to restrain sales, what is one of the first pieces of legislation it brings before the House in this session? It is a bill to permit further export of weapons around the world by Canada.<sup>17</sup>

During the course of the Commons debates, Michael Wilson clarified the status of Saudi Arabia in relation to the proposed amendments. In introducing the Bill he noted that the new Automatic Firearms Country Control List would include only countries with which Canada has "an intergovernmental defence research development and production agreement." Asked whether such an agreement existed with Saudi Arabia, he replied: "...we have not completed an arrangement with Saudi Arabia. That would have to be completed before exports would be provided for."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>*Commons Debates*. 30 May 1991: 793.

<sup>18</sup>*Commons Debates*. 30 May 1991: 792.