

delegation would travel to Moscow for negotiations on an Arctic Cooperation Agreement.<sup>12</sup> This accord, he remarked, would provide for a broad range of exchanges in the scientific and environmental fields.<sup>13</sup> He also acknowledged Mr. Gorbachev's publicly expressed concerns about air pollution in the Arctic, and noted that such concern should open doors for multilateral discussions on the problem of Arctic haze--a subject of great importance to Canada.<sup>14</sup>

The Minister also addressed the issue of President Gorbachev's security proposals for the Arctic region. Here, he stressed the importance of judging "what the Soviets are doing as well as what they are saying." In this regard, Mr. Clark observed:

The Soviet Union is the only Northern nation with an extensive and permanent deployment of nuclear weapons in the Arctic. In the North-Western quadrant of the Soviet Union, the Kola Peninsula boasts a military arsenal that is enormous... Even if the Soviet Union were to withdraw [its] armies, dismantle [its northern] fleet and destroy its ballistic missiles and bomber squadrons in the Arctic, that would not remove the threat to Canada. This would be one axis of attack but it is not of course, the only one given the threat from other Soviet bases, aircraft and naval forces. That threat can come from any direction--on, over or beneath the waters, including those of the Arctic Ocean.<sup>15</sup>

The Minister went on to comment that it would be a "great myth" to think that reductions of armaments in the Arctic would make North America or even the Canadian North safe. Rather, "...the threat to Western security is global." The reduction of Canada's northern defences, therefore, would do nothing to reduce the threat from global strategic weapons, and would in fact be destabilizing in that it could weaken deterrence.<sup>16</sup> Mr. Clark concluded by stating that the place to address global problems of armaments was in the negotiations on arms control and disarmament underway in Geneva and Vienna. He also remarked that NATO Allies including Denmark and Norway agreed that Arctic security could not be dealt with in isolation; it was a NATO rather than a northern issue.<sup>17</sup>

In February 1989, the Government announced that negotiations with the Soviet Union on non-military cooperation had resulted in the initialling of an agreement. Designed to increase cooperation in the areas of scientific research, northern development, the environment and native people, it was expected that the agreement would be

12 *Ibid.*, p. 6.

13 *Ibid.*

14 *Ibid.*

15 *Ibid.*, p. 7.

16 *Ibid.*

17 *Ibid.*