

Liberal member Don Johnston expressed disappointment that the post-Reykjavik statement made by the Secretary of State did not adopt a position on how the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme met the requirements of the Treaty. Referring to Mr. Clark's statement that it was up to the two parties to the Treaty to determine its specific limitations, Mr. Johnston stated:

That sounds as though this were some sort of private contractual relationship between two individuals or two corporations....this treaty goes to the very heart of world security, yet he refuses to offer the Government's view as to how the star wars initiative can be rationalized with the terms of that treaty.⁸

NDP leader Ed Broadbent believed that the events at the Reykjavik Summit demonstrated the US intention to break the existing treaty and that this represented a reversal of the previous US position favouring the restrictive interpretation which had been elucidated by US Secretary of State George Shultz. Mr. Broadbent went on to say that he felt that Mr. Clark was avoiding the central issue by refusing to take a position on the question of research.

Surely such a narrow discussion as 'the limits on permissible research' is now described as the issue only because the United States Administration has refused to back away from insisting on its right to test and deploy the star wars system. Instead of forthrightly criticizing the Reagan Administration for this, [he] is now helping them get the focus away from their desire to violate the ABM Treaty. I say to the Minister that this is unacceptable to the people of Canada....⁹

On 27 October 1986 Liberal member Lloyd Axworthy called upon the Prime Minister to join the opposition parties in a joint resolution indicating

⁸ Commons Debates, 21 Oct. 1986, p. 555.

⁹ Ibid., p. 557.