

At the two special sessions of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament, in 1978 and 1982, Canada supported the final declarations encouraging the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. In Mr. Young's words: "It would appear from all that activity that Canada should have taken the lead and shown by example what it is indeed encouraging other nations to do. Instead, we have managed to confuse our position by acts of both the present and past Governments."<sup>4</sup>

The Honourable Allan MacKinnon responded to Mr. Young from the Government side of the House. Mr. MacKinnon emphasized the threats facing Canada and the Canadian approach as a Western alliance member to responding to those threats:

Although the alliance has pledged never to resort to force except in response to attack, it remains united in its determination to deter any aggression against its members. The Honourable member who has just spoken wishes to do away with deterrence. Our Government continues to believe that it is through participation in these collective defence arrangements, rather than retreating into the uncertain security of a nuclear weapon-free zone, that we can make our most effective contribution to preserving the peace and security for ourselves and others.<sup>5</sup>

The Liberal Party, as determined at its 1986 Convention, favours the establishment of a NWFZ for Canada, but not at the expense of abrogating Canada's alliance obligations as they perceive them. The Honourable Donald Johnston raised some of the Liberal Party's concerns in the debate on C-214:

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 8628.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 8629.