

Mr. Clark concluded by stating:

Canada has many means to influence peace in the world. One of these, which has worked for over 40 years, and is essential to continued progress in East-West relations, is the NATO alliance.... NATO has been good for Europe, good for North America and good for Canada. This Government is committed to ensuring that Canada continues to play a full and leading role in NATO in helping shape a new era in East-West relations.³⁰

NDP Member Bill Blaikie followed Mr. Clark by acknowledging that NATO did indeed represent the "cornerstone" of Canadian foreign policy. Nevertheless, the Alliance and some of the values its members had been asked to share, were, in his words, "arguably ambiguous, in other cases hypocritical and in some cases, morally questionable."³¹ Mr. Blaikie maintained that progress in areas such as arms control derived primarily from the superpowers, with NATO acting as "a kind of spectator" and a "kind of lobby" for arms build-up. He also criticized Canada for being "far too much of a spectator with respect to NATO in particular and world events in general." For example, Mr. Blaikie complained of a lack of active participation by Canada in the ongoing debate within the Alliance over the modernization of nuclear weapons.³² He concluded:

The notion of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, I think all of us hope, is a notion that belongs more to history than to the future. We hope that events in the Soviet Union and events in the West are leading to a time when the disengagement of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, when the Manichaeian world of two alliances contending with each other for the possible destruction of the world, will be a thing of the past. Canada does have a role to play. It is a role that this Government is not playing. If it should choose to live up to that role, it would receive much better comment from this corner of the House.³³

On 19 April 1989, Mr. Blaikie raised the issue of low-level training flights of NATO military aircraft over Canadian territory. Noting recent protests by the Innu people regarding such flights and their disruption of their way of life, Mr. Blaikie called upon the Government to inform NATO that low-level flight testing was no longer acceptable in Canada.³⁴ Prime Minister Mulroney replied that such issues would be resolved by using proper channels.³⁵

Returning to the issue of low-level flight testing the next day, Mr. Blaikie asked the Prime Minister for clarification of how the question of testing would be resolved and

30 *Ibid.*, p. 8.

31 *Ibid.*, p. 10.

32 *Ibid.*

33 *Ibid.*

34 *Commons Debates*, 19 April 1989, p. 689.

35 *Ibid.*