



CANADA

Debates of the Senate

1st SESSION

•

39th PARLIAMENT

•

VOLUME 143

•

NUMBER 105

NATIONAL DEFENCE

United States Missile Defence Program

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, June 7, 2007

THE SENATE

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

UNITED STATES MISSILE DEFENCE PROGRAM

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Could the minister tell us: what is her government's position on the missile defence shield?

[English]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Secretary of State (Seniors)): I thank the honourable senator for the question. The position that the government took previously on the missile defence shield has not changed. I expect that the honourable senator has asked this question in relation to the news reports out of the G8 summit. The Prime Minister is urging calm in these speculations about Russia and the United States. However, the government's position, as indicated to the United States earlier, has not changed.

[Translation]

Senator Tardif: In 2005, at the Conservative Party convention, after having criticized the Liberal government's position on the missile defence shield, Mr. Harper said, and I quote:

[English]

On missile defence, I will tell you only one story, the same one I told our Parliament in public and the President in private: 'I will not sign on to a deal that Canadians have not seen.'

[Translation]

Does the Prime Minister plan on consulting Canadians about the missile defence shield, as he told his party members?

[English]

Senator LeBreton: The honourable senator confirmed in her quotation what I said in answer to her question. The Prime Minister and the government's position on the issue has not changed; any comments made by the Prime Minister about this issue stand.
