

large residual nuclear arsenals capable of striking North America will still exist after programmed reductions are made. Meanwhile, other nations are covertly attempting to acquire nuclear-capable ballistic missiles and other weapons of mass destruction. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems has emerged as a major security challenge.

In recent years, space has become an increasingly important component of most traditional military activities. As a result of the proliferation of missile capabilities and requirements for enhanced missile warning, the role of space will take on added significance. A growing number of nations have also acquired or have ready access to space services which can be used for strategic and tactical purposes against our interests.

Long-range bomber forces capable of striking North America remain as part of the large residual nuclear arsenal. However, the threat from these forces has diminished significantly. The proliferation of cruise missile technology could pose a future concern to North American security. Non-military air activity associated with drug trafficking and other illegal activities is of continuing interest. Domestically, the overall volume of air traffic flowing daily to, from, and within our airspace will expand as a result of the recent signing of the Air Agreement. This Agreement effectively opens our borders fully to transborder air services and will dictate an even higher degree of coordination between our national airspace and surveillance-and-control systems and their military components.

In light of the current circumstances, recent consultations between officials of our two countries have identified those tasks appropriate for the aerospace defense of North America and have analyzed the merits of cooperating in their execution. The analysis has confirmed that binational cooperation enhances aerospace defense for our continent, and is a proven and flexible means to pursue shared goals and interests. It is appropriate that our Governments update the NORAD Agreement to ensure that their mutual defense requirements are met in the current and projected geostrategic circumstances.