



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 13 No. 21

May 21, 1958

CONTENTS

NORAD Agreement	1	Surveys and Mapping Programme	5
Report on NATO Meeting	2	International Trade Fair	5
New Ministers	4	Army Surveys	5
Throne Speech Synopsis	4	To Visit Canada	6
Far North Studies	4	Honours for CBC	6

NORAD AGREEMENT

Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, speaking in the House of Commons May 19, made the following statement on the Canada-United States agreement on the North American Air Defence Command, signed May 12:

"Members of the House, Mr. Speaker, will recall that on August 1, 1957, the two governments announced their agreement to the setting up of a system of integrated operational control of the air defence forces of Canada and the United States. When I speak of Canada and the United States, I mean the country south of our border and also Alaska.

"An integrated headquarters was formed shortly after August 1, 1957 and the command has been operating on an interim basis for about nine months. In the light of intensive studies made by expert authorities on the problems of continental air defence and of the experience gained in the past nine months, the Canadian and United States Governments have in this exchange of notes registered and recorded formally their understanding of the need for integration of their air defence activities and their agreement on the principles, both military and political, on which the organization and operation of NORAD will be based and indeed have been based during the past nine months.

"For the past two decades the co-operation of Canada and the United States in the field of continental defence has grown ever more intimate. Even prior to the formation of NORAD, as many hon. members of this House

know, there was close co-operation between the air defence forces of the United States and Canada. That co-ordination arose out of the recognition that the air defence of the two countries had to be thought of as a single problem. Indeed, since 1954 an integrated system of air defence has been envisaged and preparations were made for it as early as that year. Recent technological developments had made it obvious to the two governments that co-ordination of national plans was no longer adequate. It is a truism that this globe has become smaller, and one of the main factors in that regard is the reduction in the time it takes to fly from one continent to another. That reduction is salutary and mankind applauds it. But we must never forget the implications of that truism for our defences, and we must construct defences against the possibility of a surprise nuclear attack. We must therefore have in existence in peacetime an organization which, in the face of surprise attack, could immediately take defensive action over our own territories in accordance with a single air defence plan which had already been approved by the two governments.

"The integration, I would remind the House, is the practical application of the principle of interdependence within NATO. This integration will contribute to the effectiveness of the air defence of this continent. It will also increase the ability of Canada and the United States to meet the strategic objectives established in NATO, after the setting up of

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