



—Wide World Photo

*Headquarters for NORAD is located deep underground within Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, Col. Among the monitoring devices there are large display screens which show what is going on*

*in space. These screens in NORAD's Combat Operations Centre can show the routes space satellites, such as the one charted here by a computer, take as they circle the globe.*

continental bomber-surveillance network. The Mid-Canada Line became inoperative in 1965. The Pine Tree Line became part of the contiguous radar coverage or was discontinued on a site-by-site basis, depending on usefulness.

Apart from the actual construction of these radar warning line systems, there was, during this period, consistent and close Canadian-U.S. co-operation concerning North American defence. However, a division of forces generally occurred along national lines, each having responsibility primarily for its own country's defence. As the exigencies of the international political and strategic scene became more compelling, a need was perceived for greater Canadian-U.S. co-operation. In May 1956, a Canadian-U.S. Military Study Group was established to study the operational and technical problems that would be involved in a joint command. The committee issued its report in December 1956, recommending the creation of a joint headquarters that would provide for the operational control of Canadian-U.S. air defence. Approval from the Canadian and U.S. Chiefs of Staff was forthcoming, and in August 1957 a joint statement was issued announcing the interim agreement to create NORAD.

NORAD formally came into force in May 1958, through a Canadian-U.S. exchange of notes. The ten-year agreement acknowledged, to quote from the text of the Canadian note, that "for some years prior to the establishment of NORAD, it had been recognized that the air defence of Canada and the U.S. must be considered as a single problem". However, existing Canadian-U.S. arrangements had provided for co-ordination of separate plans instead of "the authoritative control of all air-defence weapons which must be employed against an attacker". The emergence of nuclear weapons and the requirement of rapid decisions necessitated a single air-defence plan, and an integrated headquarters with "the task of exercising operational control over combat units of the national forces made available for the air defence of the two countries". This integration, it was emphasized, "increases the importance of the fullest possible consultation between the two governments on all matters affecting the joint defence of North America". Indeed, the Canadian note went on to say that defence co-operation between Canada and the United States "can be worked out on a mutually satisfactory basis only if such consultation is regularly and consistently undertaken".