

This report is not intended to cover every special issue impinging on the question of NORAD renewal. Instead, the authors have tried to concentrate on the essentials, giving their individual views in Chapters 2 to 6 and then providing a collective statement in Chapter 7. They have focussed on the following kinds of issues: what are the main changes now underway in the world that may affect the NORAD renewal issue? How rapidly are they taking place? In light of these developments, should NORAD be renewed or not? If it were to be renewed, how long should the new mandate be? If renewed, should its scope be maintained, broadened or narrowed? And if renewed, should any supplementary statements be made or initiatives taken on continental aerospace defence or related issues?

Fundamental Concepts

A key issue relating to the future of NORAD is the potential for far-reaching change in the Soviet-American strategic relationship. For much of the last three decades this relationship has been based on the concept of deterrence, but recently questions have been raised about its continued validity and relevance. Some analysts question whether deterrence ever worked as it is supposed to have done; others believe that it may be replaced in due course by doctrines of strategic defence and protection; and a third group envisages it giving way to far-reaching arms control and disarmament measures and new approaches based on the pursuit of co-operation and common security.

Strategic nuclear deterrence was embraced by the United States once the Soviet Union had acquired long-range bomber aircraft with intercontinental range as well as nuclear fission weapons that could be delivered by those bombers. The reliance on deterrence rather than active defence became even stronger when thermonuclear fusion bombs and nuclear-armed ballistic missiles with intercontinental range were added to the two sides' arsenals. By then it was obvious that nothing could prevent destruction at totally unacceptable levels once a full-scale strategic attack was launched and delivered. Hence