

V - NORAD and the Political Parties:

While NATO was initially accepted by all three major parties and, after a period of party conflict, a consensus seems to be emerging on Canada's future role in NATO, NORAD has never had all-party agreement and there has been a continuing debate over the strategic value of the arrangement. In some circles this is considered surprising since NORAD has allowed Canada to contribute directly to the defence of North America, while it can be argued that the NATO contribution is not directly related to Canadian defence. The acceptance of NORAD has been handicapped by the dominant position of the U.S., and during the 1960's the argument has been presented that the bomber threat no longer exists which has deprived NORAD of any strategic value. Furthermore, the controversy over the acquisition of nuclear warheads greatly complicated any rational debate of the function of NORAD. This type of argument has been consistently employed by the NDP (CCF before 1961) in advocating termination of the NORAD agreement, and during the 1960-62 period the Liberals were in favour of restricting NORAD to a passive defence posture.<sup>@</sup> As table No.13 indicates the Conservatives have, in principle, been the most consistent supporters of NORAD when compared to the other major parties.<sup>1</sup>

Table No.13-Attitudes of Canadian Political Parties toward NORAD

Termination or non-renewal	Decreased commitment		Status quo	Increased commitment
	Passive Defence	Indefinite Defence Posture	Active & Passive Defence	Indefinite Defence Posture
Camp (1967)	← (rejected) ←		Conservatives (1957-66)	→ (1967)
	(1960-62)	(1959)	(1957-58)	
			^ Liberals	
			(1963-67)	
Gordon (1967)	← (rejected) ←			
(1961-62)	(1963-66)			
^ CCF → NDP				
(1958-61) (1967)				

- Notes: 1. Dotted lines indicate changes in party positions.  
 2. Solid lines indicate proposals by senior party members during 1967 which were rejected by the party.

<sup>@</sup> Passive defence refers to the warning and detection functions of NORAD performed by the various radar warning systems. Active defence refers to the identification and interception role first performed by the CF-100, and now by the Bomarc system and the Voodoo interceptors.