


CANADA



EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADA-UNITED  
STATES COMMITTEE ON JOINT DEFENCE

I

*The Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Ambassador  
of the United States of America to Canada*

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ottawa, August 29, 1958.

No. 159

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to recent discussions between representatives of our two Governments concerning the establishment of a Canada-United States Ministerial Committee which would consider periodically important matters affecting the joint defence of our two countries.

In these discussions due note was taken of the intimate co-operation of our two Governments in matters relating to continental defence and of the number of joint bodies of civil and military officials which have been established to consider defence problems of common concern. It was recognized that the agreement of the two Governments to integrated air defence arrangements increased the importance of regular consultations between them on all matters affecting the joint defence of Canada and the United States.

It was agreed that the importance and complexity of these interdependent defence relationships made it essential to supplement existing channels for consultation and to provide for a periodic review at the Ministerial level of problems which might be expected to arise. It was envisaged that the periodic review would include not only military questions but also the political and economic aspects of joint defence problems.

I have the honour to propose, therefore, that our two Governments agree:

- A. That there shall be established a Canada-United States Committee on Joint Defence to consist:

For Canada, of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Finance; and  
For the United States, of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defence and the Secretary of the Treasury,  
together with such other appropriate Cabinet Members as either Government may designate from time to time as the need arises;

- B. That the Committee's function shall be:

- 1) To consult periodically on any matters affecting the joint defence of Canada and the United States;
- 2) In particular, to exchange information and views at the Ministerial level on problems that may arise, with a view to strengthening further the close and intimate co-operation between the two Governments on joint defence matters;