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FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M. EDT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1963.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today issued the following statement concerning the withdrawal of certain United States Strategic Air Command refuelling facilities in Canada:

In 1958 Canada and the United States signed an agreement providing for the establishment of certain SAC refuelling facilities in Canada. This agreement was announced in the House of Commons on June 10, 1958.

Recently the United States Government informed the Canadian Government of its plan to withdraw USAF refuelling aircraft from Frobisher and Fort Churchill by July 1, 1963 and to phase-out the USAF facilities at those bases. This requirement has been prompted by the development of newer longer range tanker aircraft which has rendered further refuelling operations from these two bases unnecessary. The Canadian Government has agreed to the United States Government's plan for the orderly withdrawal of these operations from the two bases. The necessary arrangements are being made by the authorities of both governments.

The facilities at both bases will be disposed of in accordance with the existing agreements between the two governments. The buildings will be occupied by the Canadian Government. At Frobisher, in particular, availability of these buildings will permit a significant saving in the Government's plan for constructing federal government facilities at Frobisher.

The airport will continue to be used by civil aircraft as in the past by the Canadian authorities.