

Minister of Foreign Affairs



Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Canada

Washington, March 28, 1996

The Honourable Warren Christopher
Secretary of State of the
United States of America

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to discussions that have taken place between representatives of our two Governments regarding future cooperation between Canada and the United States in the aerospace defense of North America through participation in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Our Governments remain convinced that such cooperation, conducted within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty remains vital to their mutual security, compatible with their national interests, and an important element of their contribution to the overall security of the NATO area.

In the years since the NORAD Agreement was first concluded on 12 May 1958, NORAD has evolved to address the continuing changes in the character of strategic weapons and in the nature of the threat they have posed to North America. With the end of the Cold War, we have witnessed dramatic changes in the geostrategic environment which have significantly shifted the focus of North American aerospace defense. The traditional Cold War threat has altered, both in terms of the nations or groups that might choose to challenge North American security, and the weapons that could be employed.

Strategic arms reduction treaties and other arms control initiatives hold the promise of deep cuts in strategic ballistic missile nuclear forces. However,