

NORAD

The principal item on the agenda at the moment is the renewal of the Agreement itself. Since 1958 NORAD has given both Canada and the United States an integrated command structure providing for early warning of air attack, air defence, surveillance of space and early warning of ballistic missile attack. The joint command and control structure has necessitated a coordination of military planning which is probably the most intimate found anywhere in the world.

The most significant NORAD development currently underway is the modernization of North America's air defences — a significant element of which is the North Warning System (NWS), a modernized radar early warning shield across the north of Canada and Alaska, agreed to at the Quebec Summit last March.

Peacekeeping

Finally, no review of Canada's defence relations with the United States, or throughout the world, would be complete without a reference to peacekeeping. Canada's security policy has always been based upon a flexible balance between deterrence, arms control and disarmament and the search for peaceful means of settling disputes. The contribution of peacekeeping forces to many of the world's trouble spots has made a major contribution to the latter element. Canada has participated in all but one of the United Nations peacekeeping or observer missions, and in three others outside the UN framework. At present, Canadian Forces participate in two UN operations in the Middle East, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. In addition, Canada continues to provide a battalion to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

Following the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, when the United Nations was unable to provide a peacekeeping force, an organization known as the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) was established by the parties, with assistance from the United States, to monitor security provisions of the treaty. The MFO is based in the Egyptian Sinai peninsula. In June 1985, at the request of Egypt and Israel, Canada agreed to provide up to 140 personnel and nine unarmed helicopters to the MFO. Their roles will include the transportation of observers in support of their verification tasks and medical evacuation and search and rescue as required in support of the MFO.