

CANADA-USA DEFENCE RELATIONS

Defence and security questions are fundamental to Canada-USA relations, as is demonstrated by the close cooperation between our military services in NATO and NORAD, and by our normal daily contacts. The preservation of this close link has been ensured by: the reaffirmation of the defence partnership at the Quebec Summit in March 1985; the renewal of the NORAD Agreement in 1986 and the creation of institutions such as the "North American Defence Industrial Base Organization" (NADIBO) in 1987. It is hoped that this cooperative relationship will help protect Canadian industries from protectionist legislation in the USA aimed at "preserving the Defence Industrial Base."

The modernization of North American Air Defence (NAADM), with Canada assuming a large share of the cost, and the support Canada has provided for US leadership within NATO, have also been important in the establishment of Canada's credentials as a reliable defence partner.

NORAD

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 NORAD Agreement, in which this unique cooperative arrangement is expressed, was renewed for a further five years at the March 1986 Washington Summit.

Canada and the United States are currently involved in a major enterprise to modernize North American air defence. The modernization will involve the establishment of the North Warning System, five forward operation locations for fighter aircraft at Northern Canadian airfields and dispersed operating bases for Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft at other locations in Canada. Canada will provide substantial funding for the program and will be contributing to Canadian personnel costs with AWACS and over-the-horizon backscatter radars related to NORAD missions. The modernization is expected to be completed and fully operational by 1992.