

PART I - FUTURE CANADIAN NEEDS FOR SURVEILLANCE

Meeting Future Surveillance Needs for Defence

For security against foreign aggression a nation needs to be able to detect the approach of missiles, of uninvited military aircraft and naval vessels, and of ground forces configured for invasion.

In the case of Canada, geography and the cooperation of allied nations make seaborne invasion impractical, and warning of such a highly improbable operation virtually certain. But security requires effective surveillance of the approach of ballistic and cruise missiles, of bomber and maritime patrol aircraft, of naval surface ships, and submarines. Also needed is the capability to track missiles and unidentified aircraft over Canadian territory, and to observe suspect activities in remote locations on the ground or nearby ice pack.

In an age of detente, it may be acceptable to relax the level of continual surveillance. But partial disarmament, including substantial reductions in the numbers of intercontinental nuclear weapons, makes the preservation of stable strategic deterrence more, rather than less, dependent on reliable warning of attack. The probability that a surprise counterforce attack could succeed in disarming the victim of the strategic weapons that would have enabled him to retaliate becomes greater as the number of strategic weapons is reduced.

In the event of a crisis, it is important to minimize the temptation to preempt, or to launch on warning that could be inaccurate. This danger becomes much less acute if both adversaries feel confident that warning of attack will be assured and prompt, and that they will be able to take practical steps to reduce their vulnerability. These steps could include launching of aircraft needed to duplicate ground-based command, control and communications systems. Some of the strategic bomber aircraft could take off, not for