

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to recent discussions between Canadian and United States authorities in the Permanent Joint Board of Defence and elsewhere, concerning cooperation between our two countries in the joint defence of North America. These discussions included an examination of the development programmes for modernized air defences and the strategic situation as related to our joint participation in the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). The principles governing the organization and operation of this Command were set out in the Agreement between our two Governments dated May 12, 1958. This agreement was renewed with some additional provisions for a period of five years by an agreement between our two Governments dated March 30, 1968.

The discussions between representatives of our two Governments have confirmed that there is a continuing need for integrated operational control over forces made available for the air defence of Canada and the United States as provided by the aforesaid Agreements. The discussions also indicated however, that additional time is required to examine the component elements of the concept for a modernized air defence system now under development. Further joint consultations will undoubtedly be needed in order that our two Governments will be able to consider