

## Canada agrees to test air-launched cruise missile

*The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen and the former Minister of National Defence J. Gilles Lamontagne announced July 15 "that Cabinet had agreed to the operational testing and evaluation of the unarmed AGM-86B air-launched cruise missile in Canada, following careful study of all considerations at issue".*

*Following are excerpts from an official statement:*

The government has undertaken an exhaustive technical assessment of the proposal received on June 13. There are no safety, security or environmental difficulties or dangers in the proposed test program. There is little or no danger to Canadian life or property. The missile will be unarmed and will be under control at all times. No nuclear, biological or chemical warfare materials will be involved in the tests. The test project conforms to all stipulations of the Canada-USA Test and Evaluation Program concluded earlier this year.

This arrangement will remain in force for the initial five years of the program, which can be terminated on one year's notice. The government also has the right to cancel or suspend any specific project. Canadian legislation and regulations fully govern any activities under the program....

The missile flight path, over parts of the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, will follow a route over largely uninhabited territory. Population centres will be avoided. Accompanying aircraft will take control should the missile stray from the established test corridor. Provincial and territorial authorities have been kept fully informed, and their safety concerns taken into account.

In concluding that the test project should proceed, ministers gave particular attention to collective security requirements and current prospects for arms control. Ministers reviewed the full range of negotiations on strategic, intermediate and conventional arms, considered Canada's national interests and commitments, and assessed the possible deployment of Western weapons as a

factor in promoting the resolution of outstanding arms control problems.

Two principles were agreed to be essential:

— Canada's national security — the security of our democratic values and our open society — is indivisible from the security of others. We must now, as in the past, be in a position to exert our own distinctive influence on Western councils and commitments; and

— Canada will never abandon the pursuit of global security at greatly reduced levels of armament. We reaffirm the commitment made with our partners at the Williamsburg Summit to "devote our full political resources to reducing the threat of war". Canada remains determined to make its own contribution to arms control and disarmament negotiations.

This Canadian approach is grounded in several elements: our founding membership in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), our dedication to



*Allan MacEachen (left) and Gilles Lamontagne prior to announcement that Cabinet has agreed to testing and evaluation of cruise missile.*

the global dimension of peace and stability, our active pursuit of verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements, and our longstanding decision not to develop our own national nuclear force....

NATO membership is a vital element in Canada's foreign and defence policy, which includes firm adherence to NATO's strategy of nuclear deterrence. Canada has therefore long provided facilities for the operational training of both nuclear-capable and conventional forces of our NATO allies. Current examples include

operational training exercises carried out by B-52 bombers of the USA Strategic Air Command, and the use by British and German Air Forces of Goose Bay airfield and associated low-level flight training areas. As with the proposed cruise missile tests, all these aircrafts are unarmed — no nuclear weapons have been or will be tested in Canada. The essential purpose is also the same — the maintenance of strong and reliable NATO deterrent forces.

In announcing the government's decision to test the cruise missile, ministers emphasized that this in no way changed Canada's own renunciation of nuclear weapons for our national forces. Canada has foregone the production and development of nuclear weapons. The Canadian Forces concentrate exclusively on conventional roles in collective defence arrangements. All nuclear capability was removed from the Canadian Forces in Europe in the early 1970s. In the coming months, as the new CF-18 aircraft are deployed the last nuclear weapons capability now held in Canada will also be removed.

This national non-nuclear role imposes obligations, such as the test and evaluation programs agreed with our allies. It also provides a unique opportunity for international influence on arms control and disarmament questions. Canada thus maintains a clear and credible voice in the United Nations and in other councils dedicated to the search for peace and security.

### **Dedication to arms control**

Ministers believe that Canadians can be proud of our record of contribution to the critical breakthroughs in nuclear arms control, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968. Ministers also believe that they express the hopes and expectations of many Canadians by declaring that this country's dedication to arms control remains among our highest priorities.

Canada's support for a comprehensive multilateral nuclear test ban treaty continues to be vigorous and unrelenting. Our work for a more effective non-proliferation regime, enhanced by Canada's expertise in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, will not slacken. We continue to press for reductions and limitations of conventional forces, and for a ban on the development, testing and deployment of all weapons for use in outer space. We are in the forefront of efforts to abolish chemical weapons....