



AGREEMENT TO EXTEND FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE COMMAND SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 12, 1958

I

The Secretary of State of the United States of America to the Canadian Ambassador to the United States of America.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 30, 1968

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to discussions in the Permanent Joint Board on Defense and elsewhere regarding the mutual interest of the United States and Canada in the continued cooperation between the two countries in the strategic defense of the North American continent. In particular, these discussions have concerned themselves with the North American Air Defense Command established on August 1, 1957 in recognition of the desirability of an integrated headquarters exercising operational control over assigned air defense forces. The principles governing the organization and operation of this Command were set forth in the Agreement between our two Governments dated May 12, 1958.⁽¹⁾ That Agreement provided that the North American Air Defense Command was to be maintained in operation for a period of ten years.

The discussions recently held between the representatives of our two Governments have confirmed the need for the continued existence in peacetime of an organization, including the weapons, facilities and command structure, which could operate at the outset of hostilities in accordance with a single air defense plan approved in advance by the national authorities of both our countries. In the view of the Government of the United States, this function has been exercised effectively by the North American Air Defense Command.

My Government, therefore, proposes that the Agreement on the North American Air Defense Command effected by the exchange of notes, signed at Washington, D.C. on May 12, 1958, be continued for a period of five years, from May 12, 1968, it being understood that a review of the Agreement may be undertaken at any time at the request of either party and that the Agreement may be terminated by either Government after such review following a period of notice of one year.

It is also agreed by my Government that this Agreement will not involve in any way a Canadian commitment to participate in an active ballistic missile defense.

If the Government of Canada concurs in the considerations and provisions set out above, I propose that this note and your reply to that effect shall

⁽¹⁾ Canada Treaty Series 1958 No. 9.