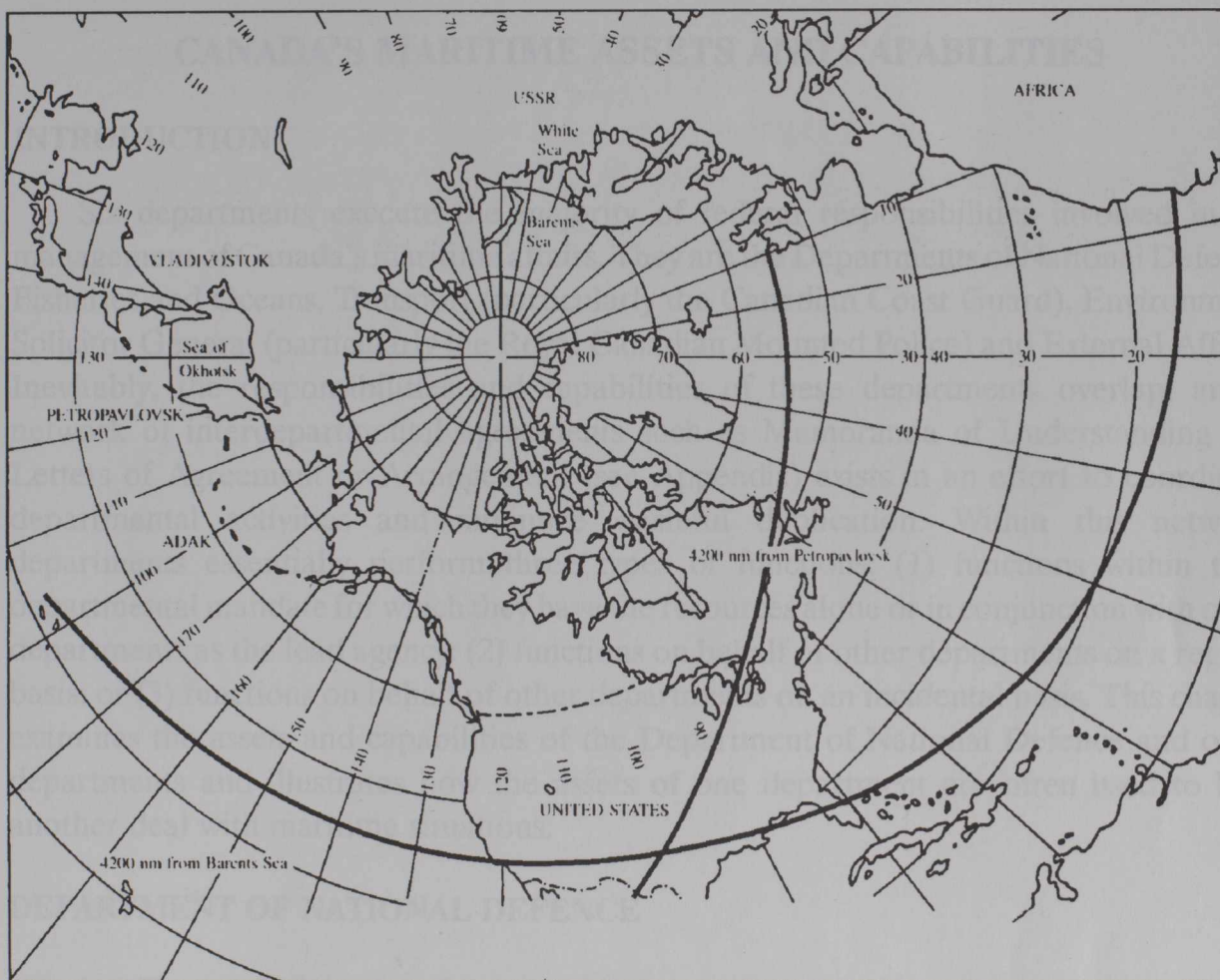


Maximum Range of Soviet Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles Fired from Arctic Bastions



Source: Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament

The capabilities and the kind of equipment Canada's maritime forces now possess are the result of a number of strategic and historical factors. At the end of the Second World War, Canada's large maritime forces were substantially reduced. But the small peacetime force which resulted maintained the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) expertise gained in battle. Indeed, Canada's ocean forces to the defence of North America in cooperation with United States forces, and to the protection of NATO's sea lines of communication (SLOCs) in cooperation with allied forces, as well as the need to ensure the surveillance and control of Canadian territorial waters, adjacent ocean areas and the Arctic archipelago, called for a combat-ready general purpose maritime force with anti-submarine capabilities. Over the years, the priority accorded by Canadian defence planners to anti-submarine capabilities has varied a great deal. In the 1950s, when land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) became the main strategic weapon and when war between the superpowers was