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AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON TEST AND EVALUATION OF US DEFENCE SYSTEMS IN CANADA

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Honourable J. Gilles Lamontagne, Minister of National Defence, today announced the signing of an agreement between Canada and the United States of America concerning the use of Canadian facilities and airspace for the test and evaluation of United States defence systems. Systems to be tested under the agreement could include artillery equipment, helicopters, surveillance and identification systems, advanced non-nuclear munitions, aircraft navigation systems, and the guidance system for unarmed cruise missiles.

The Exchange of Notes constituting the agreement was signed today in Washington by Allan Gottlieb, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, and Kenneth W. Dam, US Acting Secretary of State. The Notes were tabled today in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The agreement will remain in effect for five years and will be renewed for a further five years unless terminated. It may be terminated on twelve months' notice in writing, or without advance notice under certain circumstances.

Under the framework agreement, specific test and evaluation proposals may be put forward by the US Department of Defense for consideration by the Canadian Minister of National Defence or his representative. If approved, a Project Arrangement will be concluded between the US Department of Defense and the Canadian Department of National Defence. Canada may refuse any proposal.

An important subject for a Project Arrangement is expected to be the testing of the guidance system for the cruise missile. Such testing is linked intimately to Canada's security as a member of NATO and NORAD and to Canada's policy on arms control and disarmament.