

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND EXCHANGE OF NOTES
ON THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM**

I. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

- The Memorandum of Understanding and Exchange of Notes provide the basis for a joint U.S.-Canadian effort to modernize NORAD's air defence warning and surveillance system. The agreement also underscores the determination of both countries to cooperate closely in assuring the security of the North American continent.

II. BACKGROUND TO THE AGREEMENT

- The United States and Canada have cooperated on North American air defence since the 1950's. The joint North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), established in 1957, has been the principal vehicle for this cooperation and has been a major element of our deterrent posture.
- The Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line, a system of radars in the extreme north of Canada, was constructed in the late 1950's, and, together with the CADIN/PINETREE system, provided early warning against potential bomber attack against the continent. Although these systems remain operational, they have become obsolescent against the increased threat of low-level attacks by bombers and cruise missiles.
- Discussions concerning an upgrading of the DEW Line and modernization of NORAD's early warning capability started in 1977 and reflected the concerns of both countries. Actual negotiations on the current system commenced in early 1984 and culminated in agreement earlier this month.

III. MAIN PROVISIONS

- The modernized North American air defence system will include the following elements: a North Warning System comprising 13 Long Range Radar and 39 Short Range Radar stations deployed across northern Alaska, northern Canada, and down the Labrador coast; the communications system required to interface the radars to applicable Region Operations Control Centres and a life cycle support and maintenance capability; over-the-horizon-backscatter radar coverage provided