



news release

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CANADA AGREES TO TEST CRUISE MISSILE

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable J. Gilles Lamontagne, announced today 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.

The Government has undertaken an exhaustive technical assessment of the proposal received on 13 June. 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.

Unique among Western allies, including the United States, Canada has the combination of high latitudes, space, terrain, cold weather and test facilities suitable for testing the unarmed air-launched cruise missile, and in particular its guidance system, over realistic distances. The test corridor is to be used during winter months only, and could involve four to six tests per year. The missile will be launched by a B-52 off the northern coast of Canada. It will proceed east of the Mackenzie River delta, and then parallel to the Rocky Mountains. It will turn eastward

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