



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 81

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON EST
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1954.

Following is the text of a joint announcement by the Governments of Canada and the United States, which is being issued simultaneously in Ottawa and Washington at 12 noon EST, Friday, November 19, 1954.

On September 27, 1954, the Defence Departments of Canada and the United States issued a joint announcement on the progress being made in the development of a comprehensive jointly operated system for warning of the approach of hostile aircraft and for the control of interceptor aircraft. Four main elements of a warning and control system now appear to be practicable, namely: the main control and warning radar installations in the populated part of Canada (the jointly operated Pinetree network) and in the United States, which are now in operation; a warning line north of the settled areas of Canada (the Mid-Canada Line) being built by Canada; a warning line across the most northerly practicable part of North America (the Distant Early Warning Line); and portions of the complete warning and control system in Canada to be extended to seaward on both flanks of the continent by the United States.

In the announcement of September 27, it was stated that the Canadian and United States Governments had agreed in principle that there was a need for a distant early warning line across the far northern part of North America and had directed that detailed planning for such a line should be initiated at once.

As a consequence of the progress which has been made since the announcement last September, the two Governments have now decided to proceed with the construction of the Distant Early Warning Line.

Experience has shown that projects of this nature can be carried out most effectively by vesting responsibility for all phases of the work of construction and installation in a single authority. In the joint statement of September 27, referred to above, it was announced that Canada had undertaken the responsibility for the construction of the Mid-Canada Line. In the case of the Distant Early Warning Line it has been agreed that although both Canada and the United States will participate in the project, responsibility for the work of construction and installation should be vested in the United States.