

The Canadian Government immediately welcomed Eisenhower's proposal, and played a considerable role in advancing the discussions which took place on the subject over the next few years. These discussions were largely devoted to the establishment of various zones, such as in Europe, and it was in this context that the Canadian Government proposed an Arctic zone in August of 1957. Eisenhower had been correct in his initial assessment, however. The USSR was not disposed to consider any proposal for overflights sympathetically at that time.

During the years which followed, the two superpowers developed means of acquiring considerable amounts of information about each other: first, through the development of extremely high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft, and, subsequently, of sophisticated satellites.

Open Skies Reborn

Little was heard of "Open Skies" until recently. Whenever the subject was raised, it was usually as one of the more wistful "might-have-beens" of arms control history. All of that changed when President George Bush re-launched "Open Skies" in a speech to the graduating class of Texas A&M University on May 12, 1989.