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Cruise Missile Tests:
Safety Considerations

Procedures for testing cruise missiles in Canada would have to be negotiated and agreed to in a special Project Arrangement. One of the provisions would ensure that they would be tested only over sparsely inhabited parts of Canada. Flight safety arrangements would be carefully coordinated between the Departments of National Defence and Transport to avoid civilian air traffic as well as populated areas. The Governments of the Provinces concerned would be consulted.

Missiles to be tested would probably be launched from a B-52 bomber in the High Arctic, and follow a path over the Northwest Territories, northern B.C. and Alberta, ending at the Primrose Lake Evaluation Range on the Alberta/Saskatchewan boundary near Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Alberta. The missile would be tracked and accompanied by an EC-135 aircraft similar to the Boeing 707, equipped to monitor and evaluate its flight. Pursuit aircraft would also accompany it over key sections of the route. If the missile appeared to be flying off course the mission director would be able to take command and control the missile. If necessary, he could stop the missile's engine, opening a large parachute. A helicopter would engage the parachute line in mid-air and reel it in, or if retrieval by helicopter was not possible the missile would make a soft landing. If a missile were to come down outside the