

Committee on External Affairs and National Defence to consider the terms under which it might be renewed. After extensive hearings, the Committee unanimously recommended in December 1980 that the agreement be renewed for five years, and emphasized the desirability of Canadian participation in the space-based programs of NORAD, particularly surveillance. The agreement was renewed for a further five years during President Reagan's visit to Ottawa in March 1981.

While military preparedness is an obvious priority of Canada's bilateral relations with the United States, military and civilian teamwork in peacetime tasks such as search and rescue, weather prediction and reporting, civil emergency planning and northern research, are important continuing activities.

Military training assistance program

An interdepartmental committee, chaired by the Department of External Affairs, administers the military training assistance program. Where vacancies and funds are available, training in Department of National Defence establishments is provided on request for military personnel of certain non-NATO countries. This program provides a wide range of instruction, including basic officer and junior staff training, as well as military trades courses. In 1981, 30 candidates from the Caribbean and Africa were trained in Canada, the great majority attending officer courses.

Strategic arms talks (SALT/START)

The strategic arms negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union have been stalled since 1979 as a result of the US failure to ratify SALT II, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the need of the Reagan Administration to prepare its position for the negotiations. It is widely accepted that both sides have nevertheless adhered to the terms of the SALT II agreement. In November 1981 President Reagan announced US readiness to open new negotiations on strategic arms in 1982 and renamed the talks "START" (Strategic Arms Reductions Talks) to stress the fact that the United States would pursue substantial reductions resulting in equal, verifiable levels.

As a strong advocate of the strategic arms negotiation process, Canada continues to endorse fully and support the search for agreement on measures that would help to reduce and limit strategic nuclear arms, and so preserve and increase the stability of the strategic balance and lessen the risk of war.

Intermediate-range nuclear force modernization and arms control

One of the many issues facing the alliance in recent years has been the question of modernizing NATO's intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), which have remained static in number and have become increasingly obsolescent, while those of the Soviet Union have increased dramatically,