

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, today announced that the Canadian Government has agreed in principle to a request of the Government of the United States to retain a small military unit at Goose Bay when the USAF Strategic Air Command Wing there is withdrawn later this year. The role of this new USAF unit will be to maintain aircraft servicing and fuelling facilities for day to day transit use and to support NATO/NORAD activities in times of emergency. The detailed arrangements to govern the presence of this unit will be set out in an agreement to be worked out by representatives of interested agencies of the two governments.

It is anticipated that the new unit at Goose Bay will consist of about ten USAF personnel and that the major support requirements will be met by a civilian contractor. The contractor may employ approximately 50-100 Canadian civilians to perform such tasks as aircraft servicing, enroute maintenance, tank farm and refuelling system maintenance and supply support. Details of the contractual arrangements will be determined over the coming months. Other services required will be negotiated with Canadian Government departments at Goose Bay, i.e. the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Public Works and the Department of National Defence.