

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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NORAD AND THE AIR DEFENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

A Statement by the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable James Richardson, on April 13, 1973, to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

...I understand that the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence wishes to give particular attention to the air defence of North America and more particularly the NORAD Agreement. I will, therefore, as requested, confine my remarks this morning to this important subject.

In the evidence which he gave you on March 2, Lieutenant-General R.J. Lane, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the North American Air Defence Command, has already provided you with a fairly full account of the history of NORAD, of its currently assigned missions and of the forces and facilities which the Canadian and United States Governments have placed under the operational control of CINCNORAD. General Lane also described to you the strategic threat to North America as it is seen from NORAD headquarters and spoke briefly on the Command's view of its future needs. Mr. Kirkwood, my Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy), who accompanied General Lane, gave the Committee a brief account of the relationship which exists between Canada's contribution to NORAD and our ability to exercise and ensure respect for our national jurisdiction in Canada's air-space.

Members of the Committee who were able to attend that briefing will recall that the present strength of NORAD is 85,000 military and civilian personnel. I believe it is worth emphasizing that the number of personnel in NORAD have been reduced substantially during the last decade. The present strength of 85,000 is down from 248,000 in 1961.

The breakdown of the present strength is that 11,000 are provided by Canada and 74,000 by the United States. The United States' forces consist of 53,000 full-time regular force and civilian personnel, mostly of the Air Force and Army, and 21,000 from the National Guard.

NORAD's interceptor force today consists of three Canadian Forces squadrons, nine regular United States Air Force squadrons, and 17 American Air National Guard squadrons. The anti-aircraft missile force, entirely American, has 28 *Hercules* missile batteries manned by the United States Army, 27 *Hercules* batteries manned by the Army National Guard and eight Army *Hawk* missile batteries.