

U.S. initiated negotiations with Canada in 1972 to place temporary recovery forces in Newfoundland in the event that Skylab should have an emergency abortive launch.

Defence relations

In the Government's White Paper on defence, published in August 1971, it was stated that Canada's objective in North American defence co-operation was: "... to make, within the limits of our resources, an effective contribution to continued stability by assisting in the surveillance and warning systems and in the protection of the U.S. retaliatory capability as necessary. Co-operation between Canada and the U.S. in the joint defence of North America is vital for our sovereignty and security". The Permanent Joint Board on Defence is the principal consultative mechanism for Canada-U.S. co-operation in defence matters, and makes recommendations to the respective governments on joint defence questions. The Board held four meetings in 1972 and considered a wide variety of questions affecting bilateral arrangements for North American defence. Its considerations will assist the Government in reaching a decision concerning the renewal of the NORAD agreement in 1973.

The United States lease at Goose Bay, Labrador, originally scheduled to expire on December 5, 1972, was extended until June 30, 1973, in order to permit more time for the situation to be assessed and the elaboration of a long-range plan for the area.

Environment

The growing importance of Canada-United States relations in the field of environmental management was clearly underlined throughout the year. Highlights in this field included the signature on April 15, by President Nixon and Prime Minister Trudeau, of the Agreement between Canada and the United States on Great Lakes Water Quality and the submission by the two governments, also on April 15, of two references to the International Joint Commission calling for studies of pollution in the Upper Great Lakes and of pollution throughout the Great Lakes from land drainage.

The terms of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement demonstrate the increasing use the two countries are making of the International Joint Commission to deal with environmental problems. The Commission, which is to establish a regional office in Windsor, Ontario, has been given the responsibility of assessing



The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada have just signed the Great Lakes Water Agreement designed to improve the quality of the environment in that crucial area. Info. Canada Photo