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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 10, 1973

NORAD AGREEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, D.C., Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Q.C., and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Canadian Affairs, Mr. Rufus Z. Smith signed an exchange of notes extending the NORAD Agreement for a period of two years, from May 12, 1973. The decision to extend the NORAD Agreement was announced by the Minister of National Defence in the House of Commons on April 17.

The text of the exchange of notes is attached.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to recent discussions between Canadian and United States authorities in the Permanent Joint Board of Defence and elsewhere, concerning cooperation between our two countries in the joint defence of North America. These discussions included an examination of the development programmes for modernized air defences and the strategic situation as related to our joint participation in the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). The principles governing the organization and operation of this Command were set out in the Agreement between our two Governments dated May 12, 1958. This agreement was renewed with some additional provisions for a period of five years by an agreement between our two Governments dated March 30, 1968.

The discussions between representatives of our two Governments have confirmed that there is a continuing need for integrated operational control over forces made available for the air defence of Canada and the United States as provided by the aforesaid Agreements. The discussions also indicated however, that additional time is required to examine the component elements of the concept for a modernized air defence system now under development. Further joint consultations will undoubtedly be needed in order that our two Governments will be able to consider

and decide upon the extent of modernization that will satisfy future requirements for the joint defence of North America, taking into account the evolving strategic situation, including developments in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Representatives of our two Governments consequently believe that the interests of both Canada and the United States would be best served in these circumstances by extending the NORAD Agreement on its present terms and conditions, for an additional period of time.

My Government, therefore, proposes that the Agreement on the North American Air Defence Command effected by the exchange of notes, signed at Washington, D.C. on May 12, 1958, and as renewed by the exchange of notes signed at Washington, D.C. on March 30, 1968, be extended without alteration in its present terms and conditions for a further period of two years, from May 12, 1973.

If the Government of the United States concurs in the considerations set out above, I have the honour to propose that this note, which is equally authentic in English and French, and your reply to that effect, shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments, effective from the date of your reply.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

M. Cadieux

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your note of proposing that the agreement on North American Air Defence Command effected by the exchanges of notes of May 12, 1958, and continued by exchange of notes of March 30, 1968, be extended without alteration in its present terms and conditions for a period of two years from May 12, 1973.

I am pleased to inform you that my Government concurs in the proposal set forth in your note. My Government further agrees with the proposal that your note and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments effective to-day.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.