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Description of document: Notes exchanged on May 5, 1955 between the Canadian Embassy and the US Department of State re: US-Canadian Agreement on Distant Early Warning System (air defense)

Requested date: 24-April-2010

Released date: 18-April-2012

Posted date: 24-December-2012

Source of document: Freedom of Information Act  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
A/GIS/IPS/RL  
US Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20522-8100  
Fax: 202-261-8579  
[Online FOIA Request Form](#)

Note: The enclosed material is associated with an FBI File:  
HQ 62-101831

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 18 2012

Case No. 201108924

We refer to your April 24, 2010 request to the FBI for their file FBI HQ 62-101831. In the course of responding to your request, the Bureau found one State Department document. They asked us to review it for possible release on October 11, 2011.

We have examined the document and are pleased to enclose it. One citation to it is *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* (TIAS) 3218. Citations to subsequent agreements on this subject can be found in the list of *Treaties in Force* at the Department's web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheryl L. Walter', followed by a smaller, less legible signature.

Sheryl L. Walter, Director

Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosure:  
1 document

TIAS 3218

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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U. S.-Canadian Agreement on Distant Early Warning System

Following are texts of notes exchanged on May 5 by the Canadian Embassy and the Department of State.

TEXT OF CANADIAN NOTE

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
May 5, 1955

No. 306

SIR,

I have the honour to refer to my Note No. 791 of November 16, 1954,<sup>1</sup> regarding the joint establishment by Canada and the United States of America of a comprehensive warning and control system against air attack. My Note read in part as follows:

The Canadian Government has now considered a proposal put forward through the Permanent Joint Board on Defense that the construction of the Distant Early Warning element of the over-all joint Canada-United States warning system should be the responsibility of the United States Government. The Canadian Government concurs in this proposal subject to the conclusion at an early date of an agreement as to the terms which shall govern the work. At the same time, however, the Canadian Government wishes to state its intention to participate in the project, the nature and extent of such participation to be determined in the near future.

I am instructed by my Government to inform you that its participation during the construction phase of the project will consist of giving assistance to the United States authorities in organizing and using Canadian resources, and to helping by making available the facilities of the armed forces and other agencies of the Canadian Government when appropriate. I am also instructed to state that the Canadian Government intends to participate effectively in the operation and maintenance

<sup>1</sup> Not printed. For a U.S.-Canadian statement of Nov. 19, see BULLETIN of Nov. 29, 1954, p. 539.

phase of the project, the character of such participation to be determined on the basis of studies to be carried out during the construction phase.

My Government now proposes that the annexed conditions should govern the establishment by the United States of a distant early warning system in Canadian territory. If these conditions are acceptable to your Government, I suggest that this Note and your reply should constitute an agreement effective from the date of your reply.

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

A. D. P. HEENEY.

THE HONOURABLE JOHN FOSTER DULLES,  
Secretary of State of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

Annex

STATEMENT OF CONDITIONS TO GOVERN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTANT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IN CANADIAN TERRITORY

(In this Statement of Conditions, unless the context otherwise requires, "Canada" means the Government of Canada; "United States" means the Government of the United States of America; "Distant Early Warning (DEW) System" means all the detection stations, communications installations (including relay stations), and ancillary facilities, making up that part of the System in Canada; "RCAF" means the Royal Canadian Air Force, and "USAF" means the United States Air Force.)

1. Site INDEXED-45

The location and size of all airstrips and the location of all sites, roads, wharves and jetties, required for the DEW System in Canada shall be a matter of mutual agreement by the appropriate agencies of the two Governments. Canada will acquire and retain title to all lands required for the system. Canada grants and assures to the United States, without charge, such rights of access, use, and occupancy may be required for the construction, equipment and operation of the system.

2. Liaison Arrangements

It is anticipated that the United States will carry out the construction of the DEW System through a manager

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ment contractor appointed by the United States. It is understood that the United States and the management contractor will establish a ~~DEW Project Office~~, and that the participation of interested Canadian Government agencies in the Project Office is desired to the extent necessary for consultation on matters covered in this statement of conditions. In addition, the Canadian Government may decide to appoint a Special Commissioner for the Project, and to assign liaison officers to the construction operations in Northern Canada.

### 3. Plans

Plans of the buildings, airstrips, roads (including access roads) and similar facilities, information concerning use of local materials, such as rock fill, sand and gravel, and information concerning other arrangements related to construction and major items of equipment, shall, if requested, be supplied to the appropriate Canadian authorities in sufficient detail to give an adequate idea of the scope of the proposed construction. Canadian officials shall have the right of inspection during construction. Proposals for subsequent construction, or major alterations, shall be discussed with the appropriate Canadian authorities.

### 4. Provision of Electronic Equipment

The Canadian Government reaffirms the principle that electronic equipment at installations on Canadian territory should, as far as practicable, be manufactured in Canada. The question of practicability must, in each case, be a matter for consultation between the appropriate Canadian and United States agencies to determine the application of the principle. The factors to be taken into account shall include availability at the time period required, cost and performance. For the purpose of applying these principles to the ~~DEW line~~, the DEW Project Office shall be used as far as possible as the instrument for effective consultation between the Canadian and United States agencies concerned.

### 5. Construction and Procurement (other than Electronic Equipment)

(a) Canadian contractors will be extended equal consideration with United States contractors in the awarding of construction contracts, and Canadian and United States contractors shall have equal consideration in the procurement of materials, equipment and supplies in either Canada or the United States;

(b) Contractors awarded a contract for construction in Canada will be required to give preference to qualified Canadian labour for such construction. The rates of pay and working conditions for this labour will be set after consultation with the Canadian Department of Labour in accordance with the Canadian Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act.

### 6. Canadian Law

Nothing in this Agreement shall derogate from the application of Canadian law in Canada, provided that, if in unusual circumstances its application may lead to reasonable delay or difficulty in construction or opera-

tion, the United States authorities concerned may request the assistance of Canadian authorities in seeking appropriate alleviation. In order to facilitate the rapid and efficient construction of the DEW System, Canadian authorities will give sympathetic consideration to any such request submitted by United States Government authorities.

Particular attention is directed to the ordinances of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory, including those relating to the following:

- (a) No game or wildlife shall be taken or molested in the Northwest Territories. Licences to hunt in Yukon Territory may be purchased from representatives of the Yukon Territorial Government.
- (b) No objects of archaeological interest or historic significance in the Northwest Territories or Yukon Territory will be disturbed or removed therefrom without first obtaining the approval of the Canadian Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

### 7. Operation and Manning

(a) The extent of Canadian participation in the initial operation and manning of the DEW System shall be a matter for later decision by Canada after full consultation with the United States. It is understood that, in any event, Canada reserves the right, on reasonable notice, to take over the operation and manning of any or all of the installations. Canada will ensure the effective operation, in association with the United States, of any installations it takes over.

(b) Subject to the foregoing, the United States is authorized to station personnel at the sites, and to operate the DEW System, in accordance with the principles of command in effect from time to time between the military authorities of the two countries. The overall manning policy as between the employment of military and civilian personnel shall be the subject of consultation and agreement between the two Governments.

### 8. Financing

Unless otherwise provided by Canada, the costs of construction and operation of the DEW System shall be the responsibility of the United States, with the exception of Canadian military personnel costs if Canada should man any of the installations.

### 9. Period of Operation of the System

Canada and the United States agree that, subject to the availability of funds, the DEW System shall be maintained in operation for a period of ten years or such shorter period as shall be agreed by both countries in the light of their mutual defence interests. Thereafter, in the event that either Government concludes that any or all of the installations are no longer required, and the other Government does not agree, the question of continuing need will be referred to the Permanent Joint Board on Defence. In considering the question of need, the Permanent Joint Board on Defence will take into

be used by the United States solely for the support of the System. If it should be desired at any time by the United States to use an air strip for other purposes, requests should be forwarded through appropriate channels. The air strips shall be available for use by the RCAF as required. The air strips shall also be available for use by Canadian civil air carriers operating into or through the area, whenever such use would not conflict with military requirements, and SUBJECT to the understanding that the United States Air Force will not be responsible for the provision of accommodation, fuel, or servicing facilities of any kind. Proposals and arrangements for such use of USAF operated air strips by Canadian air carriers shall be submitted to the RCAF, which shall consult the USAF before granting any such permission.

16. *Landing Facilities*

Landing facilities at any of the stations on tidewater will be available for use by Canadian Government ships and ships employed on Canadian Government business.

17. *Transportation*

Canadian commercial carriers will to the fullest extent practicable be afforded the opportunity to participate in movements of project materials, equipment and personnel within Canada. The United States will select the means of transportation and specific carriers for the movement of materiel, equipment, and personnel from points outside of Canada to DEW System sites, provided that in the case of air carriers applicable civil air transport agreements and procedures shall be observed.

18. *Resupply Arrangements*

Because of the special conditions in the Canadian Arctic, the Canadian Government has a particular interest in the arrangements for the resupply of the DEW System. These arrangements shall therefore be a matter for later consultation and agreement between the two Governments.

19. *Taxes*

The Canadian Government will grant remission of customs duties and excise taxes on goods imported and of federal sales and excise taxes on goods purchased in Canada which are or are to become the property of the United States Government and are to be used in the construction and/or operation of the DEW System, as well as refunds by way of drawback of the customs duty paid on goods imported by Canadian manufacturers and used in the manufacture or production of goods purchased by or on behalf of the United States Government and to become the property of the United States Government for the construction of the system.

20. *Status of forces*

The Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces", signed in London on June 19, 1951, shall apply.

21. *Supplementary Arrangements and Administrative Agreements*

Supplementary arrangements or administrative agreements between authorized agencies of the two Governments may be made from time to time for the purpose of carrying out the intent of this agreement.

**TEXT OF U. S. REPLY**

MAY 5, 1955

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge your Note No. 306 of May 5, 1955. You refer to the construction by the United States of the Distant Early Warning element of a comprehensive warning and control system, being established jointly by the United States and Canada, and annex a statement of conditions to govern the establishment of this line in Canadian territory which were developed in discussion between representatives of the two Governments.

The United States Government notes the intentions of your Government with regard to participation in the construction, operation and maintenance of the project and both concurs in the conditions annexed to your Note and confirms that your Note and this reply shall constitute an agreement of our two Governments effective today.

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

For the Secretary of State:

ROBERT MURPHY

His Excellency

A. D. P. HEBNEY

*Ambassador of Canada*