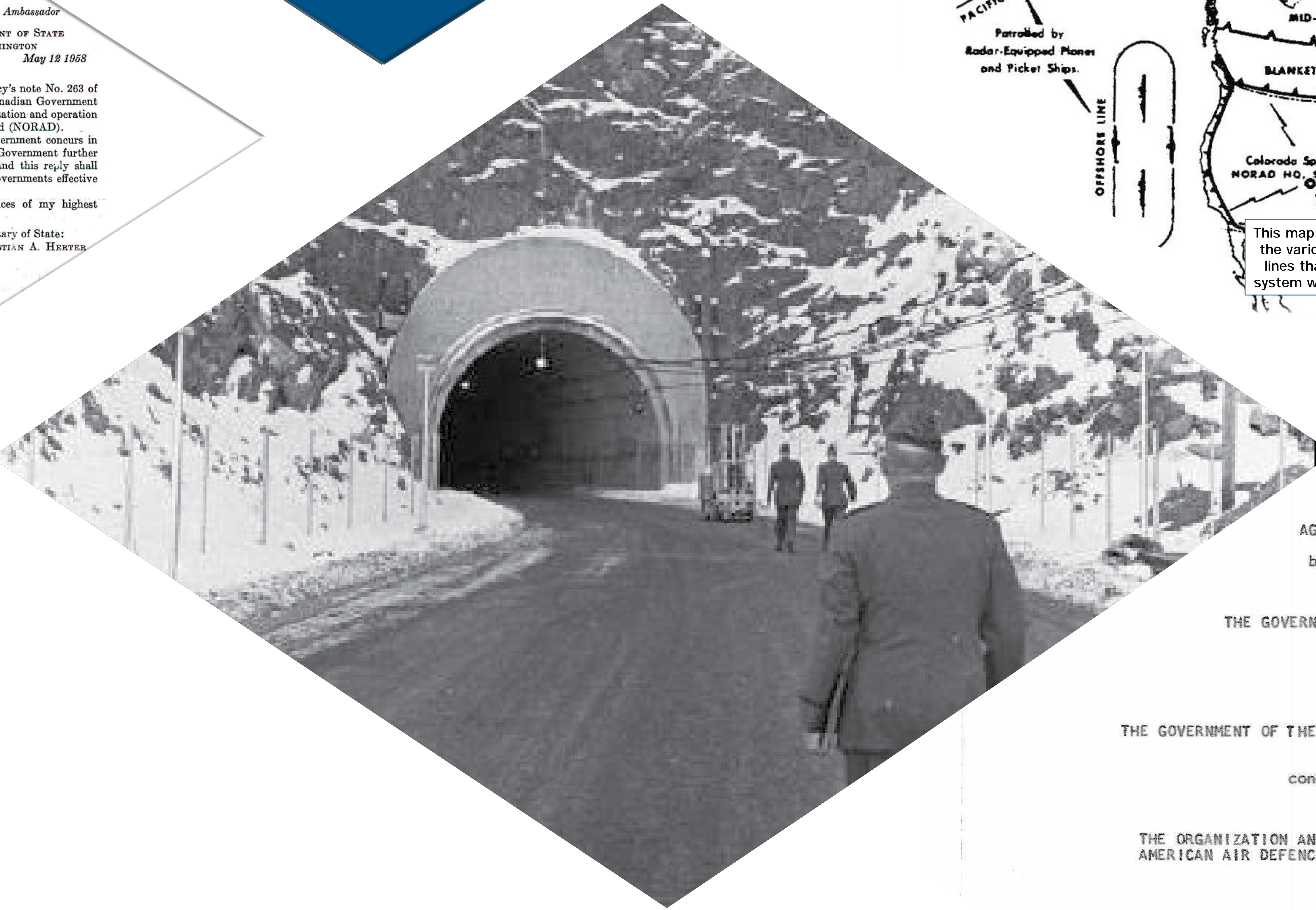


The Secretary of State to the Canadian Ambassador
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 WASHINGTON
 May 12 1958

EXCERPTS:
 I have the honor to refer to your Excellency's note No. 203 of May 12, 1958 proposing on behalf of the Canadian Government certain proposals to govern the future organization and operation of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).
 I am pleased to inform you that my Government concurs in the principles set forth in your note. My Government further agrees with your proposal that your note and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments effective today.
 Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:
 CHARLES A. HEWITT

His Excellency
 NEWMAN ROBERTSON,
 Ambassador of Canada.



AGREEMENT
 between
 THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
 and
 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 concerning
 THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE NORTH
 AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND (NORAD).

Signed at Washington, May 12, 1958



HERITAGE

To establish a defensive air shield over North America during the Cold War, the governments of the United States and Canada signed the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) agreement on May 12th, 1958. This agreement created the bi-national command that would be responsible for defending North America's airspace from any external threats.

Headquartered at what was then Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado, NORAD dedicated military personnel and assets from both the United States and Canada to work side-by-side in the defense of North America.

Throughout its history NORAD has evolved to meet the ever-changing threats to North America, such as the intercontinental ballistic missile threats, that led to the to the establishment of the now-iconic operations complex within Cheyenne Mountain, a location designed to withstand a nuclear attack.

Modernization saw NORAD expand its mission to include tactical warning and assessment of possible air, missile or space attacks on North America that was codified in the 1981 NORAD agreement that updated the name of the command to the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

In response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 NORAD began conducting Operation NOBLE EAGLE to defend Canada and the United States against terrorist activity within or outside the nations' air borders.

Since 2006, NORAD has analyzed information from diverse bi-national sources to provide warning of maritime threats to the United States and Canada.

'WE HAVE THE WATCH'

HONORING THE PAST

