

24 February 1993

The Honourable Kim Campbell, M.P.,
Minister of National Defence,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Ms. Campbell,

I write to express my extreme disappointment and dissatisfaction with the actions of the Government of Canada respecting the renewal of international arrangements for the testing of cruise missiles over the Mackenzie Valley of the Northwest Territories.

As the Member of the Northwest Territories' Legislative Assembly for the constituency over which these missiles will be tested, I wish to point out that the people I represent are not in favour of the renewal of any pact which allows our Northern skies to be used for this purpose. This has been reflected many times in Motions passed in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and in numerous public comments made by Members over the past ten years. Dene and other Northerners of my region find it difficult to understand why this position was overlooked in considerations leading up to the signing of the new pact.


Further, it is my understanding that there was no discussion of this matter with either the Premier of the Northwest Territories. While there is no question that final responsibility for the "peace and security" mandate lies with the Government of Canada, I am appalled that you would not have solicited consultation from the Government of the Northwest Territories on this issue. I believe that this action reflects a certain disregard for the views of the Territorial Government and the people it represents. It conveys a disrespect for the maturity of our political system and our ability to participate as a partner in the national decision-making process. It is an outdated and counter-productive approach for the Government of Canada to take.

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On behalf of the people of Nahendeh, I would urge you to immediately set a date to meet and discuss this matter with the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Yours sincerely,


Jim Antoine,
M.L.A., Nahendeh