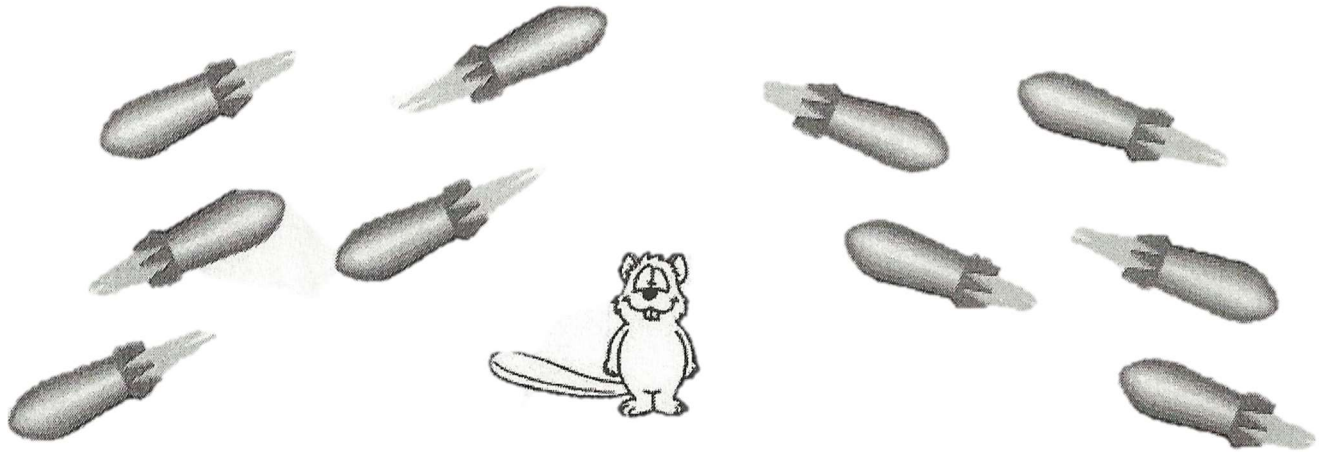
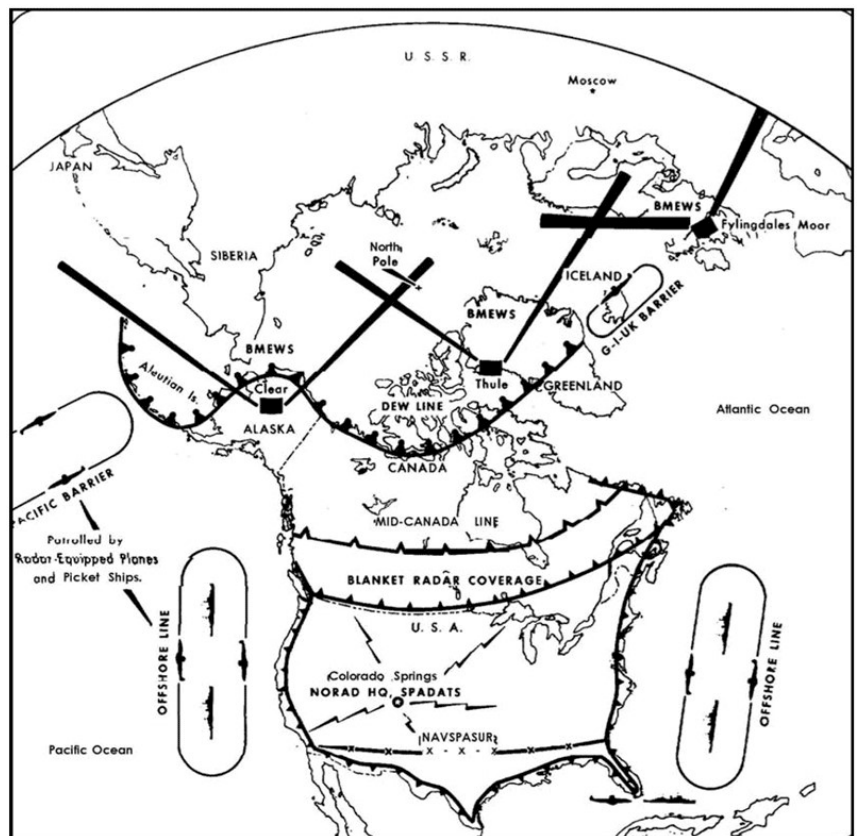


NORAD (North American Air Defence Command)

- By the mid-1950s both the United States and Russia had Nuclear missiles.
- Hydrogen nuclear bombs are developed in 1952-53 by both countries (these weapons are 40 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima).
- Canada was in the unique position of being geographically located in-between the US and USSR. All of a sudden, the Canadian Arctic became very important.



- Three chains of radar stations were built in North America to detect incoming missiles:
 - The Pinetree Radar System (Canadian-American border)
 - The Mid-Canada Line (550N parallel)
 - The Distant Early Warning Line, or DEW (along the Canadian Arctic coastline)



Map depicting continental air defense systems c.1962. USAF Museum map.

- In 1957, NORAD (*The North American Air Defence Command*) was created. This organization brought the air defence of North America under joint command of Canada and the United States. The commander was an American while the deputy-commander a Canadian.
- NORAD's headquarters was situated in Colorado, as well as North Bay, Ontario.

Why?

- If there was a nuclear attack, the defence of North America would be directed from NORAD's headquarters. It was hoped that this would stop the USSR from wanting to attack.

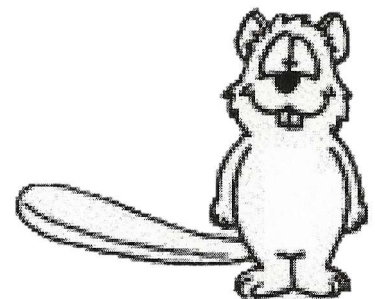
MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction)

- MAD was a policy developed in the 1950s and 1960s that simply stated that if a nuclear attack was ever launched on either the United States or the USSR, both countries would launch whatever they could at their targets, ensuring that both sides were destroyed — meaning NO SURVIVORS ON EITHER SIDE.

Question:

What does a policy like MAD mean for Canada?

What do you think growing up in a world with such a policy would be like for your grandparents?



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