

## US Centre PhD Summer Grant report

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### **Summary of Research:**

This summer project will form a key part of my thesis, which explores the trajectory of the dual-key nuclear sharing arrangements between the Canada and the United States under NATO and NORAD from 1957 to 1984. The core puzzle that drives my thesis is why some states renege on their previously held alliance commitments, despite the structural incentives to cooperate within institutionalized alliances. I argue that a key source of leverage is the type of domestic coalition that supports defection, which can mitigate the costs of renegeing. There are four instances of renegeing attempts that I will explore in my thesis: Firstly, Prime Minister Diefenbaker's unsuccessful attempt to get out of the nuclear sharing commitments he made in the 1950s and 1960s, which contributed to his electoral defeat in 1963; Secondly, Prime Minister Trudeau's successful effort to withdraw from Canada's nuclear role in NATO by 1972; Thirdly, Prime Minister Trudeau's aborted attempt to have all nuclear weapons withdrawn from Canadian soil between 1970-1971; Finally, the withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Canadian soil in 1984.

### **Overview of Summer Project:**

The primary goal of this summer research project was to collect material that would allow me to discern the United States' reaction to and effect on Canadian decision-making on its nuclear sharing arrangements. I sought archival materials that would answer two main questions: What was the American response to each of Canada's attempts to renege on its nuclear commitments? To what extent did this response affect Canadian decision-making and foreign policy outcomes?

The US Centre PhD Summer Research Grant allowed me to visit two archives: the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, CA and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, MA. At these archives, I was able to gather a substantial amount of archival material pertaining to Canadian nuclear sharing policy and Canada-US defence relations more generally.