Should Canada be part of a U.S.-led missile defence system? It's a question with which Canadian prime ministers have been wrestling since the 1950s.

OWEN SIMPSON

Although cabinet ministers were reassured by phrases such as "would not cause great fallout" and "strong probability" that expressed no concern to the prime minister, this was not the case for cabinet ministers. It seems the reports were not clear and the decision was made without a clear understanding of the implications. The Canadian government was cautious and did not make a decision until after the U.S. decision was made.

STAR WARS, THE FIRST GENERATION: A Bicameral anti-aircraft missile system was deployed in North Bay in September 1963. The ground-to-air-missiles were deployed in squadrons under the Canadian Forces Air Defence Command and the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Defence Command.

Erika Simpson is an associate professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario.