

US-Canada Versus Russia. Confrontation in the Arctic: Canadian CF-18 fighters drive off 2 Russian TU-95 aircraft

Region: Canada, Russia and FSU

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CHURCHILL, Canada: A senior Canadian official said on Wednesday that two CF-18 Hornet fighters of Canada had driven off two Russian Tu-95 Bear aircraft 30 nautical miles away from Canadian soil.

Dimitri Soudas, press secretary of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, said the two CF-18 Hornet fighters visually identified the two Russian aircraft approximately 120 nautical miles north of Inuvik in Northwest Territories on Tuesday.

"At their closest point, the Russian aircraft were 30 nautical miles from Canadian soil," he said in a news release. "The CF-18s shadowed the Bear aircraft until they turned around. The two CF-18s came from 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alberta."

Soudas said the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) carefully monitors all air activities and considers all options to protect the air sovereignty of Canada and the United States.

Soudas also reaffirmed the Canadian government's commitment to replacing the CF-18 fleet after its retirement with new, highly capable and technologically-advanced F-35.

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