

to the Canadian people. That principle has been acted upon ever since. British naval stations and British army garrisons have been withdrawn. Canada, herself, has assumed responsibility for all defence establishments in Canadian territory. It was felt by our Government that a reversal of the principle underlying this historical process was something which the Canadian people would not wish to entertain.

*The approach to effective co-operation*

The attitude of the Canadian Government, in this matter, was, however, far from being a negative one. Our desire to co-operate in the most effective manner was made abundantly clear in the following statement which I made in Parliament with respect to Canada's position. "We ourselves," I said, "are prepared to have our own establishments here and to give in those establishments facilities to British pilots to come and train here, but they must come and train in establishments which are under the control of the government of Canada and for which the Minister of National Defence will be able to answer in this Parliament, with respect to everything concerning them".

This declaration of Canadian policy was cordially welcomed by the Government of the United Kingdom. On July 7th, 1938, in answer to a question in the British House of Commons as to whether his attention had been drawn to this statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Kingsley Wood, the Secretary of State for Air, replied: "Yes sir. An offer in this sense has been communicated to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, by the Canadian Prime Minister, through the Canadian High Commissioner. A reply has been sent expressing warm appreciation of the offer, and arrangements are being made in accordance with the suggestion of the Canadian Prime Minister for an officer to be sent immediately to Canada to explore, in co-operation with the Canadian Government, the possibility of working out a scheme for training facilities in Canada".

A few weeks later, an officer of the Royal Air Force was sent by the British Government to conduct the exploratory investigations referred to. During the stay in Canada of this expert from the Air Ministry, a careful survey was made of requirements and facilities