

and protective effectiveness. With the advent of submarine packs along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean, North Americans quickly learned that war could come to their shores in full force and fury. Later, Japanese landings in the Aleutian Islands sharply underlined the fact that this continent might not be impregnable.

Realization of the possibility that war, if it comes again, might touch the North American continent itself was in the minds of responsible leaders of Canada and the United States even before the forces of the last war were unleashed.

President Roosevelt, when receiving an honorary degree at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, in 1938, made the first formal commitment of the United States to aid in the defence of Canada when he declared in memorable and historic words:

"Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British Empire. I give to you the assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other empire."

Two days later at Woodbridge, Ontario, Prime Minister King announced the complementary obligation on the part of Canada when he announced that Canada would see to it that:

"Should the occasion ever arise, enemy forces should not be able to pursue their way either by land, sea or air to the United States across Canadian territory."

Thus was notice served on all the world by both Canada and the United States that henceforth both countries were committed to a co-operative system of mutual self-defence.

As a matter of fact, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King had already initiated discussions on the joint defence of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and had authorized talks by staff officers at Washington during the previous January.

Early in World War II the policy of joint defence action by the United States and Canada came to full fruition under the relentless pressure of events.

In the dark days of 1940, as the Germans overran the Lowlands and France, besieged Britain by air and threatened actual invasion, the future of the whole free world quickly fell into jeopardy. Canada, with its relatively small resources of population could scarcely hope by itself to defend its huge domain. The United States, as yet unprepared, could not easily protect itself from attack based on Canada.

These urgent contingencies were considered by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King on August 17, 1940, when they met at Ogdensburg, New York, and agreed to set up a Permanent Joint Defence Board to "consider" (in the words of their joint announcement)