

United States Section was Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia of New York City; the first Chairman of the Canadian Section was Colonel Oliver Mowat Biggar, a prominent lawyer. Since 1951, representatives of the Department of External Affairs and of the Department of State have served as members of the Board in addition to the two secretaries provided by these departments. These appointments ensure that the Board is more than a body for joint staff consultations and that it is in close touch with the wider aspects of government policy.

For a few weeks in 1940, the United States Section of the Board outnumbered the Canadian Section by one service member, since both the United States War and Navy Departments provided air officers. On October 11, an additional Canadian service member, Lieutenant-Colonel Georges P. Vanier (who later became Governor General of Canada), was named to the Board, thus equalizing the representation. However, when Colonel Vanier resigned late in 1942 to accept a diplomatic post, he was not replaced. Equality of representation was not achieved again until 1947, when, with the establishment of the Department of the Air Force, the United States representation of air officers was reduced to one. In 1973, both sections added officers of general rank from the policy branches of their respective defence departments, a move that has given an added importance to the Board's discussions. During the last several years, it has become customary for representatives of the Canadian Departments of Transport and Industry, Trade and Commerce also to attend meetings of the Board, because of the close association of those departments with matters frequently under discussion.

The Canadian service members and the diplomatic members of the Board and the secretaries of each section have always held other appointments as well. Thus, between meetings, they are in daily touch with the problems with which the Board is concerned and with the policies of their departments. Initially, United States service members were not as a rule within the War Department General Staff or the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; now, however, they are the senior officers within their respective departments concerned with Canadian affairs. The chairmen of both sections have never had departmental or service affiliations and are appointed by their respective heads of government.

The first meeting of the Board took place on August 26, 1940, in Ottawa, when seven recommendations were passed, more than a fifth of all the Board's recommendations for the entire war. This was possible because there was a backlog of urgent problems that had already received some joint staff consideration. During the