

December. And I might add that the other committee of ministers from both countries, dealing with economic and trade matters, I hope would meet sometime between 8 and 25 September or, if not then, some time -- I would hope -- between September 8 and the early part of October.

#### Permanent Joint Board on Defence

Supplementing the Ministerial Committee is the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, which has been in existence since the Ogdensburg Declaration of August 1940. The Board comprises both civilian and military representatives and thus permits open and frank presentation on a thrice-yearly basis of the civilian and military viewpoints of both countries on current defence questions. The board comprises a Canadian and a U.S. Section. The Chairman of the Canadian Section is Mr. Dana L. Wilgress, a distinguished Canadian public servant who, before he retired from the Department of External Affairs, was Canada's Permanent Representative to NATO. In addition, the Vice-Chiefs of Staff of the three services are members and there is also a member and secretary provided by the Department of External Affairs. For some years, representatives of the Departments of Transport and Defence Production have attended Board meetings. Where it is desirable, each section may have in attendance for particular meetings representatives of other government departments. Over its 23 years of existence, practically all of the important joint defence measures taken since 1940 were originally discussed in the Board and many of them resulted from the Board's recommendations, and made by the Board.

The Board is a wholly advisory body, and does not have the authority to enforce decisions or to take implementing action on substantive matters.

Disarmament and defence are sides of the same coin, in that they are alternative routes to national security. It is evident that the requirements of our national defence have an important bearing on the positions we take in international discussions on disarmament. In the long-term, the alternative to disarmament would be increased competition in armaments and ever-larger military budgets, without any lasting guarantee of peace and mutual security. It is for this reason that Canada must continue to work for the adoption of a programme of comprehensive disarmament under effective international control. We believe that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee provides a satisfactory forum for discussing specific disarmament proposals, and that Canada -- as a member of that Committee -- can best contribute to maintaining progress in these discussions by assisting in the formulation of realistic Western proposals.

At the same time we have to recognize that until there has been a substantial degree of actual disarmament -- with a parallel increase in the peace-keeping capabilities of the United Nations -- Canadian security will depend primarily on collective defence within NATO and under NORAD. But, just as it is important to ensure that our national policies on defence and disarmament are compatible