

and when this happens the responsible representatives undertake to have the matter studied by their respective services and to report the results. This is usually sufficient to dispel the problem, which otherwise might, in the process of more formal diplomatic communication, have grown in magnitude.

The Permanent Joint Board is not a combined staff and likewise in its national sections it is not a rival to the Military staffs in Washington or in Ottawa. Its strength for its special task lies in the fact that it has not been clothed with any executive responsibility. It cannot order anything but it can suggest what needs to be done. The Board has the duty to constantly review the situation and if any of its suggestions have not been acted upon it can draw this situation to the attention of the President and the Prime Minister. In practice this has proved to be ample authority.

During World War II the Permanent Joint Board was very active in the discharge of its responsibilities and it was under its auspices that the basic plans for the defence of Canada and Alaska were drawn up; that arrangements were made for such important defence undertakings as the Alaska Highway, the Northwest Staging Route for ferrying aircraft to Russia and China, the Crimson Route across Hudson's Bay, Baffin Land, Greenland, etc. to Europe, etc.

It was at the instance of the Board also, in the immediate post-war period, that steps were taken to transform the international character of the various installations of these joint undertakings to ensure that full ownership and clear title to all establishments in Canadian territories should vest in Canada. Very large sums of money were paid over by Canada to the United States in this process of liquidation.

Since then the Board has concerned itself with the future.

At an early meeting the Board recognized the need for wider interchange of officers and specialists, including those concerned with the design of new weapons and with eventual standardization; for joint tests and the interchange of observers on exercises, etc.

The result of these discussions was made known in a statement given simultaneously on 12 February, 1947 in Ottawa to Parliament by the Prime Minister, and in Washington by the Secretary of State. This statement defined the measure of agreement which had been reached for co-operation in our defence policies and I am sure that anyone who will consider and weigh these principles will feel, as I do, that everything which is essential for the closest military co-operation and preparation for defence has been included and that there is thus provided a comprehensive basis on which either country may bring forward any defence matters which it may wish.

I think that it is particularly advantageous to Canada that we are enabled to make the very significant contribution of which I believe our engineers and scientists are capable in the fields of weapon development and research. It has been our special concern to ensure that in this section of the nucleus of our war organization we are especially well equipped and staffed.

These arrangements with the United States are of great importance both because of the positive measures of association, collaboration and standardization which have been established between our respective armed forces and for the mutual and reciprocal availability of military, naval and air facilities in each country which are announced. They are important also by reason of the statements of what is not intended and in this respect they make clear to all the world that Canada intends to continue, as we have always done, to carry our full and proper responsibilities for the defence of our own territory and that all arrangements within our own territory will remain strictly under our own control. That is, as Mr. Truman said in his address in Ottawa to both our Houses of Parliament on 11 June 1947, we "participate on the basis of equality and the sovereignty of each is carefully respected."

With these provisions for the free and intimate discussion of defence
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