

North America there is happily no longer occasion for any nation to prepare armed forces to support its policy against its neighbours; on the contrary the defence interests of all nations of the continent have become closely similar in character and no divergence of view is apparent on any matters which may rightly be regarded as fundamental. The trends which menace our way of life into the future and the contingencies which have to be provided against are external to this continent; at least this is so as regards their origin.

In the study of military defence, it is most important to take note of the very remarkable progress which has come about, particularly during the last two decades, in the application of science and engineering to war. Today for those who are suitably prepared and equipped, distance has largely lost its former attenuating effect on the conduct of military operations and we must realize not only that continents are now within aircraft range of one another but that with new developments already shrunken space continues to shrink still further.

We now have to contemplate the possibility of aircraft at supersonic speeds; of guided missiles of great range; of atomic bombs of catastrophic power and we must realize that in the very near future these forms of bombardment may be rapidly followed up by considerable forces airborne but capable of operating with great effectiveness on the ground even in the face of the widespread destruction and contamination which will result from the long range air or atomic bombardment. With the increased range of action and of speed in transit, continents today have already become the least geographical units on the basis of which questions of defence can properly be stated; consequently, effective arrangements for the defence of the territory of one nation have become matters of vital concern to all other nations of that continent.

It is evident that the peoples of both Canada and the United States are well aware of the changes which have come about in the basic considerations governing defence and that they are deeply concerned to be correctly informed as regards the nature, the scope and the adequacy of the cooperative relations which exist between us.

In the preparation of the measures that should be taken to meet the contingencies which may arise it is well to have regard to the historical relations of those who need to cooperate because from the experiences of the past may come realization not only of the things which make cooperation easy, but as well and perhaps even more importantly, of the kind of actions or proposals which need to be most strictly avoided because of their danger to harmony in public opinion.

We must never forget that cooperation and close association are not conditions which should be taken for granted; and even in the case of Canada and the United States the present happy relations between our Armed Forces have only been attained and can only be maintained by continued care and effort directed to this end.

For this reason I propose to first review very briefly the highlights in Canadian-United States military relations down the years. Then, in order to obtain a sense of proportion of the defence arrangements which are possible