

would be under American command in Canada; moreover, Canada might lose control of the disposal of its own forces.

The Americans were astounded that the proposal, although previously accepted by Canadian service members of the Board, was now rejected. The result was a short period of serious tension between American and Canadian members of the Board. The Chairman of the American Section, Mayor LaGuardia, actually appealed directly to Roosevelt for support and suggested that the President take the matter up with the Prime Minister. Although the President did not approach the Prime Minister, he gave assurance of support to LaGuardia and on the advice of the Secretaries for War and Navy, instructed him to take the following line with the Canadians:<sup>29</sup>

- (a) Although not a belligerent, the United States was virtually ready to undertake the defence of eastern Canada and Newfoundland.
- (b) Canada had neither the men, or the matériel for this task except as a participant on a smaller scale than the United States.
- (c) The Canadian war effort was designed primarily to send men and materials overseas.
- (d) Since the defensive effort would fall nine-tenths to the United States, the strategic responsibility should be vested in that country.

There were, however, real differences in approach to the problem. The Americans considered it a military one capable of a military solution. In their view a unified command under an American commander was necessary for security. The Canadians felt strongly that the problem of a higher command could be resolved by co-operation between appropriate commanding officers and that the preservation of Canadian autonomy in command arrangements was politically essential.

Compromise along the lines of the Canadian proposals was eventually accepted and remained generally in effect until the end of hostilities, with the exception of naval arrangements which will be discussed later. The following proposals, among others, were accepted by both Governments, although somewhat reluctantly by the Americans:<sup>30</sup>

1. The forces of each country should be assigned to tasks for which they were specially suited.
2. Each country should retain strategic direction and command of its own forces.
3. Co-ordination of military effort would be by mutual consultation and co-operation.
4. A unified command might be established by local commanders where required, on agreement of the Chiefs of Staff of both countries.
5. Exchange of liaison officers between commands at various levels.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Dziuban, Stanley W. *op. cit.* p. 114.

<sup>30</sup> *Loc. cit.*

<sup>31</sup> Stacey, C. P. *op. cit.* p. 353 and Dziuban, Stanley, W. *op. cit.* p. 115.