

Implications of the Policy

18. While the actual defence measures that will be required cannot be discussed at this point, there can be no doubt that, with or without world security obligations, Canada will be required to carry a greater peacetime defence commitment than ever before. It seems clear that a part of future Canadian defence policy should be to accept full responsibility for the defences of Canada. Furthermore, the general responsibility of Canada for the defence of Newfoundland and Labrador has been recognized and accepted by the Canadian Government during the war as an inevitable consequence of their geographical proximity. It is desirable that the part of the United States in the defence of these territories should be limited to their interest in their leased bases, and in particular to their establishments at Argentia and Stephenville.

19. This closer tie-up with the United States need not conflict with the Canadian tradition of basing military policy and training upon British practice. However, if Canada and the United States are to be efficient in the defence of North America, common experience between the national forces will be desirable in time of peace (e.g. the pooling of information and possibly the carrying out of occasional joint exercises).

20. This closer liaison with the United States is in no sense an isolationist policy. If any single lesson has emerged from the present conflict, it is that no nation can ensure immunity from attack merely by erecting a defensive barrier around its frontiers. Canada's first lines of defence at the present time extend far out into the Pacific in the West and to Europe in the East. With the growth of air power, frontier defences have become less significant. It is not intended that Canada should base its defensive policy exclusively on collaboration with the United States. On the contrary it is considered that Canada should accept a fair share of responsibility in an international security organization along with the other Nations both inside and outside the Commonwealth.

CONCLUSIONS

21. It is concluded, therefore:

- (a) that the defences of Canada should be closely co-ordinated with those of United States in the post-war period.
- (b) that the Permanent Joint Board on Defence should be retained as a valuable means of facilitating this co-ordination and also as a medium for the informal discussion of mutual defence problems.
- (c) that the only apparent source of major friction which might arise between Canada and the United States would grow out of differing views towards events outside this continent. In this connection relations between United States and the U.S.S.R. are of special concern to Canada.
- (d) that in joint defence planning with the United States, Canada must accept full responsibility for defence measures within Canadian territory.

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