

the ways of peaceful progress through the United Nations may be restored,-- that we may be so strong that the menace which hangs over Europe may be dissipated and that the people there will come again to enjoy their freedom from care and want and ever-present anxiety.

But these arrangements in relation to defence collaboration overseas are in themselves not enough. From the very nature of the contingencies which may have to be dealt with and by reason of the existing locations of resources in raw materials, manpower, economic facilities and manufacturing capacity this North American continent has become the base for the provision of much of the varied and voluminous equipment and supplies needed for the restoration and sustenance of the European economy and for the conduct of defence in war should that become necessary. No longer is this continent of America immune by reason of distance from the scene of possible hostilities and so our industry would present a major objective to attack should the possibility for this be left open.

Not only therefore is it necessary for us to make defence arrangements for the protection of the North Atlantic Community as a whole but, in view of our special problems in North America, it is also necessary to continue the intimate co-operation between the United States and Canada in defence matters.

The North Atlantic Pact is therefore not some magic formula by which we may have shifted a burden to other backs to bear but it is a great co-operative defensive endeavour which will call to us at least for equal sacrifice and effort; and this to be efficient--as it must be--requires that we work together in all defence matters from the elementary planning for civil defence through the exacting business of research to the development of new weapons and resources; in design and standardization and methods of manufacture of equipment and their quantity production; in organization and training, on land, at sea and in the air--it calls for the closest association in all these matters right up to and including the employment of our forces in war, if that unhappy eventuality should come.

In the limited time available to-day it is not possible to even sketch the organization which is evolving here to deal with all these important aspects of the problem and to indicate how they are to be integrated with the corresponding set-up on the other side of the Atlantic. But I would like to mention one feature of the organization between Canada and the United States which is novel and for which there is no counterpart elsewhere and that is the Permanent Joint Board on Defence.

This Board was established by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada in August, 1940, not by some formal treaty after long negotiation but by the simple process of a joint statement giving form and substance to a conversation -- an intimate conversation -- which they had held in a railway car on the previous night.

The President and the Prime Minister gave this Board the responsibility "to commence immediate studies relating to sea, land and air problems, including personnel and material." It will consider, they said, "in the broad sense the defence of the northern half of the Western Hemisphere." The word "permanent" was part of the original designation. This Board was thus designed as a continuing and sensible arrangement to work out and prepare the measures which should ensure the future existence of our two countries in safety on this continent until such time as the world had moved forward to a new order based on friendship and goodwill between all nations, when perhaps the strict precautions now necessary may possibly be relaxed. I cannot overemphasize that this Board does not represent any alliance formed as a threat to other peoples.

The Permanent Joint Board on Defence is organized in two national sections, each with a Chairman. When the Board meets formally, the Chairmen preside jointly, but with a single purpose, which is to ensure that a proper answer is given to every problem in the interests of the maintenance of North American security. The procedure is by way of discussion and agreement, never by vote, and in all its history every conclusion has been unanimous. Very often, discussions and interchange of information serve to bring to attention some point on which there may have been a lack of understanding in the relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries