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U.S. - CANADA DEFENCE CO-OPERATION

The basic framework of Canada's defence co-operation with the United States was outlined in general terms in the House of Commons November 13 by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker, who said, in part:

"As the House is aware, the machinery of defence co-operation between Canada and the United States had its origin in what is known as the Ogdensburg Declaration of August 1940, by the President of the United States and the then Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Mackenzie King, foreshadowing the development of the closest defence collaboration between the United States and Canada. Arrangements arising out of this declaration were effective during the last war in the political, military and supply fields.

"In November 1945, the United States Government forwarded a request to the Canadian Government urging that collaboration in defence which had been so effective during the days of war should be maintained; that Canada and the United States should agree to the continuance of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence which had been established in August 1940, and set up military arrangements to ensure the continuance of close co-operation of the defence forces of both countries in the defence of Canada and the United States. It was agreed that the Permanent Joint Board on Defence would be continued and a military co-operation committee would be set up, directly responsible to the chiefs of staff in each country, to

discuss and process joint measures for the defence of Canada and the United States.

"Following negotiations in the Permanent Joint Board of Defence, there emerged a joint statement of principles approved by the two governments laying down in broad terms the conditions governing the continuing partnership in defence of the two countries. These conditions and principles were announced in the House of Commons on February 12, 1957. Defence co-operation and collaboration between Canada and the United States has therefore continued without a break and with continuing impetus since 1940.

"When Canada and the United States signed the North Atlantic Treaty, the arrangements and procedures for defence collaboration were continued under the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group as one of the regional groupings of NATO.

"I would emphasize that the only restrictions which exist in defence collaboration are those imposed by law and not by desire. This limitation is only in the field of thermo-nuclear weapons, and is mainly concerned with the composition, construction and manufacturing techniques of nuclear weapons. The House will realize that the manufacture of nuclear weapons is not an urgent defence requirement for Canada. On June 15, 1955, by means of an exchange of notes, agreement was reached between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States for co-operation in

(Over)

CONTENTS

U.S. - Canada Defence Co-Operation	1
Trade Mission To UK	3
Halibut Commissioner	3
The Canadian Ministry	4

WUS National Assembly	4
Changes In Energy Pattern	4
Primary Textiles Industry	5
Maritimes Programme	6