

Consistent with Canada's growing status in international affairs, the first Canadian legation was established in Washington on February 17, 1927, with the Hon. Vincent Massey as Canada's first Minister to a foreign country.

Recognition of Mutual Dependence

During the thirties, the fundamental urge for friendship between Canada and the United States was underlined by the growing uncertainty in the world picture. The vestiges of past suspicions faded in the light of common interest. The interdependence of the two countries was formally recognized by President Roosevelt in his historic statement of American policy in 1938: "The Dominion of Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British Empire. I give you assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other Empire."

The reply by the Canadian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, was equally significant: "We too have our obligations as a good friendly neighbor, and one of them is to see that, at our own instance, our country is made as immune from attack or possible invasion as we can reasonably be expected to make it, and that, should the occasion ever arise, enemy forces should not be able to pursue their way, either by land, sea, or air to the United States, across Canadian territory."

The stage was set for the unique co-ordination of effort achieved by Canada and the United States during the second World War, which brought the two countries into closer partnership and understanding than ever before.

MILITARY COOPERATION

The Ogdensburg Agreement

On August 17, 1940, the Prime Minister of Canada met with the President of the United States at Ogdensburg, New York. Following their discussions, a joint statement--soon famous as the Ogdensburg Agreement--was released to the world. In view of the urgent defence requirements of North America, it was agreed that a Permanent Joint Board on Defence, with equal representation from both countries, was to be set up immediately, to advise on immediate needs, and to constitute the permanent advisory instrument for planning the defense of both Canada and the United States in the post-war period.

For the first time in its history, Canada had entered into a defensive arrangement with a country outside of the British Commonwealth; and the United States, still a neutral, had concluded what could be regarded as a defence alliance with a belligerent state. A historic advance had been made in Canadian-American relations.

Defence Measures

One of the earliest projects of importance to continental defence had been initiated by the Canadian government prior to the outbreak of war. This was the Northwest Staging Route--a chain of airports connecting Edmonton, Alberta, with northwest Canada and Alaska. The project, readily approved as essential by the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, was rushed to completion by the Canadian government by the fall of 1941.

After Pearl Harbor, with the United States at war, Canada at once offered free use of this vital airway--removed