

For the past two decades the cooperation of Canada and the United States in the field of continental defence has grown ever more intimate. Even prior to the formation of NORAD there was close cooperation between the air defence forces of Canada and the United States arising out of the recognition that the air defence of the two countries had to be thought of as a single problem. Recent technological developments made it obvious to the two governments that coordination of national plans was no longer adequate. It is a truism that our generation has witnessed a shrinking of the globe in our ever-increased ability to reduce the time required to go by air from continent to continent. Normally, we think of these developments as being most desirable. We must not, however, forget their implications for the defences which we must construct against the possibility of a surprise nuclear attack. We must, therefore, have in existence in peacetime an organization which, in the face of surprise attack, could immediately take defensive action over our own territories in accordance with a single air defence plan which had already been approved by the two governments.

The establishment of integrated defence arrangements between the United States and Canada increases the importance of consultation between the two governments on all matters affecting joint defence.

This continuing process of consultation is not new. Once again, however, in the course of our discussions on the exchange of notes, both countries recognized that their defence cooperation can be worked out on a mutually satisfactory basis only if such consultation is regularly and consistently undertaken.

This further evolution in the essential collaboration of Canada and the United States in continental defence will assist in the maintenance and development of the individual and collective capacity of the two governments to fulfil their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and NATO for the preservation of international peace and security.

On the extent of cooperation in matters along our boundary, I need not dwell at length. The mere fact that any difference of opinion is news indicates the measure of agreement which normally exists. An outstanding example of this harmony is the magnificent development of the power resources and the navigation facilities in the St. Lawrence River. As to the development of the Columbia River, I shall only say that there has been much misunderstanding of the respective positions taken by the two governments. The Canadian Government has not at any time announced a preference for one mode of development rather than any other. We have merely said that the best development of the resources should be made when pending reports of engineering and economic factors have been completed and assessed by governments.