

since 1940, including the North American Air Defence Command — now North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) — have originated in discussions of the Board. Many successfully concluded defence agreements would have been more difficult had not the PJBD smoothed the way for subsequent negotiations at the diplomatic level.

Changed role

Since the early 1950s, the Board has gradually assumed a somewhat different role, partly because of the changing nature of the task and partly because of the emergence of other bilateral consultative bodies in the defence field such as the Military Co-operation Committee, established in 1946, and the Senior Policy Committee on the Canada-United States Defence Production and Development Sharing Program, formed in 1958. The PJBD has come to complement these other channels by continuing to provide a forum for both the formal and informal exchange of views on the entire range of North American defence issues, a vehicle for the solution of problems proving troublesome at the level of officials and a means for expediting action on priority items through the special access of the chairmen to their respective heads of government.

The emergence of the Soviet threat to Western Europe in the late 1940s, and the creation of NATO in 1949, brought Canada and the United States into a multilateral alliance for the first time in peacetime. While actively supporting this defensive alliance, the two countries continued to provide for the defence of North America on a bilateral basis. As the threat to North America became more direct, with the development by the Soviet Union of bomber aircraft of intercontinental range and later of long-range missiles, the PJBD was closely involved in the planning of the three radar lines (the Pinetree Line, the Mid-Canada Line, and the Distant Early Warning Line) successively constructed across the continent at increasingly northern latitudes to give warning of bomber attack across the Arctic. Its role was more indirect in the construction by the United States of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, with sites in Alaska, Greenland, and the United Kingdom, in the establishment of NORAD in 1958 and in the resolution, during 1963, of the troublesome problem of nuclear warheads for Canadian weapons systems.

In recent years, the Board has found its most useful role in assuring that the medium- and long-range plans of the two governments for the defence of North America are formulated in full knowledge of, and in harmony with, the other's plans and