

The question of post-war collaboration on defence between Canada and the United States was first discussed as early as June 1945, after the German Armistice and before the end of the war in the Pacific.

It would not be proper for me to go into details but public expression of the intention of Canada and the United States to continue in peacetime the defence cooperation which had proved so fruitful in wartime was given in identical statements made by the Prime Minister in Ottawa and the President of the United States in Washington on February 12, 1947. This statement, is the basis upon which defence collaboration between the two countries continues. May I draw your attention to one or two of the most important features of the statement. It said that each Government had decided that its national defence establishment should, to the extent authorized by law, continue to collaborate for peacetime joint security purposes. The point was made that all cooperative arrangements would be without impairment of the control of either country over all activities in its territory. It was emphasized that each country would control the extent of its practical collaboration and might discontinue collaboration at any time. The statement stressed that an important element in the decision of each Government to authorize continued collaboration was the conviction on the part of each that in this way their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security would be fulfilled more effectively.

As the joint statement points out there is an interchange of personnel between the armed forces of both countries, there is cooperation and exchange of observers in connection with exercises and progress has been made on the questions of standardization in arms, equipment and organization. There is reciprocal provision of naval and air facilities. Weather stations and Loran stations have been set up in the Far North under cooperative arrangements between the two Governments and at Fort Churchill a centre has been established where the forces of both countries carry out tests of equipment under cold weather conditions.

What are the reasons for this close collaboration with the United States, and what are the long term implications?

The reasons are obvious. We occupy with the United States the northern half of the Western Hemisphere. Our security, if threatened at all, is threatened only by Russia and her satellites. No longer are the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic effective barriers. Any hopes we may have had about creating an effective system of collective security under the United Nations have not been realized. One world has become two worlds. I do not want to exaggerate the dangers inherent in the world situation today, but they are grave enough to compel us to look to our national security. By the facts of geography our security is linked to that of the United States and it would be criminal folly on our part if we did not cooperate with the United States in self-defence.

Now, while recognizing that cooperation with the United States in defence is essential we must at the same time be alive to the dangers of close defence relationships with a country much more populous and powerful than we are. You have heard statements to the effect that the United States is taking over the Canadian North, that we have become a satellite of the United States and have lost or are in danger of losing our freedom of action in the international field. Statements such as these are obvious exaggerations.

As already indicated, the joint declaration of the 12th February, 1947, includes the following:

"As an underlying principle all co-operative arrangements will be without impairment of the control of either country over all activities in its territory."

and also: