

THE CANADA-U.S. DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

The United States remains Canada's most important ally. The friendship between our two countries is unique, based on shared experiences and values and underpinned by a close economic interdependence. Our defence and security relationship is long-standing, well entrenched and as extensive as any in the world. Both Canada and the United States share the understanding, growing out of the 1940 Ogdensburg Declaration, that North America's security is indivisible.

Canada has benefited immensely from its defence partnership with the United States over the years. Our bilateral cooperation continues to provide us with a degree of security that we could never achieve on our own.

A NEW NORTH AMERICAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY CONTEXT

For more than 60 years, our defence relationship has evolved to meet new and emerging threats. It may now be entering a period of change like no other, as the security of North America has taken on a new dimension in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

For Canada, the United States' more assertive role on the world stage and growing sense of vulnerability at home have implications across the socio-economic, political, diplomatic and defence spectrum. Whether within a continental or global context, developments within the U.S. will profoundly affect Canada for years to come.

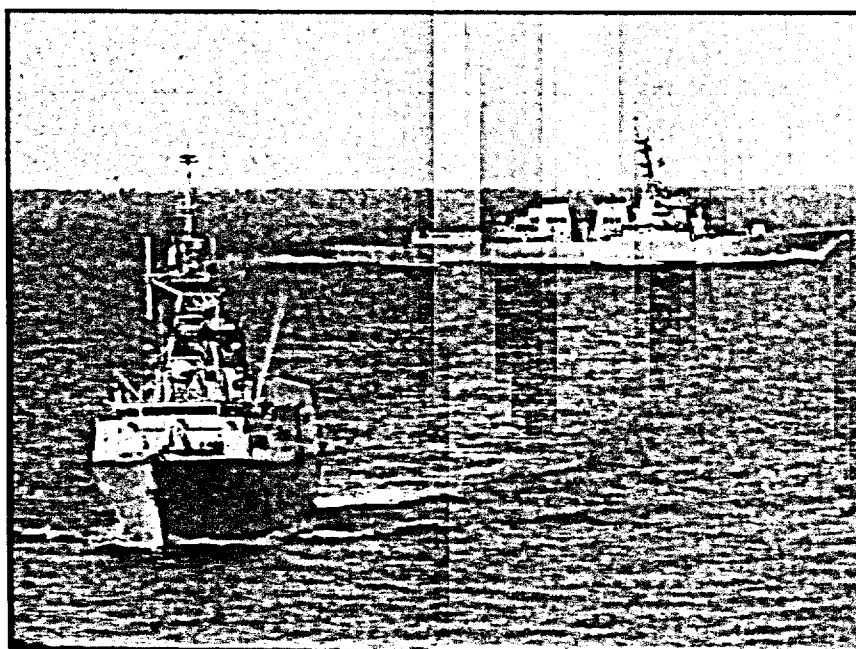
Indeed, Canada's security has become more closely linked than ever to that of its southern neighbour—and vice versa. Canada's geography is, from an American viewpoint, destined to regain the importance it lost after the end of

the Cold War. Given our shared border and infrastructure and extensive bilateral trade, most of the new dangers to the United States are no less risks to Canada. For example, a serious terrorist incident occurring close to the Canada-U.S. border would undoubtedly threaten the physical safety of Canadians and Americans, not to mention the free flow of goods and people between our two countries on which our economy so greatly depends.

The United States, with its increased focus on homeland security, has already demonstrated that it is prepared to expend considerable energy and resources to protect its people and territory, and to defend its interests. This stands out clearly, for example, with the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security and Northern Command. The latter is specifically dedicated to the defence of U.S. territory and its approaches, and the coordination of military assistance to American civil authorities.

THE CANADIAN FORCES AND NORTH AMERICAN DEFENCE: A NEW APPROACH

It is clearly in our sovereign interest to continue doing our part in defending the continent with the United States. Our intent to do so was clearly reflected in the security and defence measures announced in recent



Indian Ocean—Canadian Frigate HMCS *Toronto* (foreground) and the United States' warship USS *Bulkeley* (background)

