

CANADA-USA DEFENCE RELATIONS

The genesis for much of Canada-USA defence cooperation lies in the Ogdensburg Declaration of August 18, 1940 issued at a meeting of Prime Minister Mackenzie King and President Franklin Roosevelt. The outbreak of World War II in Europe made it evident to both governments that demonstrable measures should be taken to ensure the defence of North America on a cooperative basis. The Ogdensburg Declaration established a Permanent Joint Board on Defence (PJBD) to coordinate "in the broad sense the defence of the north half of the Western Hemisphere."

The PJBD has been active as a senior advisory group since 1940. In recent years the Board has found its most useful role in the broad area of helping to mesh military requirements with political, economic and other considerations, in order to facilitate the implementation of defence programs satisfactory to the two governments. At the March 1985 Summit in Quebec, the President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed the importance of the PJBD to cooperative defence arrangements in their joint declaration regarding international security.

In 1946, the PJBD was supplemented by the formation of the Canada-United States Military Cooperation Committee. The Committee serves as the principal agency for joint military planning and its senior service members also sit on the Board. The consultation and cooperation undertaken through these coordinating mechanisms is supplemented, at the political level, with regular meetings between the respective foreign and defence ministers. The close and extensive system of contacts between the two governments helps to ensure that vital defence cooperation proceeds with the greatest mutual benefit.

In June 1987, the Government of Canada issued a new Defence White Paper that reflected a comprehensive review of its defence policy and set out a major program of improvements for its Armed Forces. The Government is committed to a minimum annual real growth in its defence budget of two per cent a year for 15 years, with provision for additional capital expenditures for major equipment. A central aim of the White Paper is the modernization of the Canadian Navy into a well-balanced naval force capable of operating in the three oceans bordering North America: the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic. The Government will create a three-ocean navy by: building 12 new frigates and modernizing four destroyers; acquiring a fleet of 10-12 nuclear-powered submarines, procuring 12 maritime coastal defence vessels and acquiring new shipborne anti-submarine-warfare (ASW) helicopters.