

The first chairman of the United States Section was the Mayor F. H. LaGuardia of the City of New York. On Mr. LaGuardia's death in 1946, Mr. Dean Acheson acted as Chairman for a short time. He was followed by Major General Guy V. Henry, who had for many years been the senior United States service officer on the Board under Mayor LaGuardia.

Through the years many well-known military figures have served on the Board. Among the Canadian members have been Brigadier (later Lt. General) Kenneth Stuart, Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) G. P. Vanier, Captain (later Vice-Admiral) H. E. Reid, and Air Vice-Marshal (later Air Marshal) W. A. Curtis. Distinguished American officers have included Commander (later Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations) F. P. Sherman, Lieutenant Colonel (later General) J. T. McNarney, and Lt. General S. D. Embick.

An Advisory Board

From the beginning, the PJBD has functioned as an advisory body without executive responsibilities. However, it has acted vigorously in furthering joint defence projects that it has considered to be in the mutual defence interest of the two countries. These projects usually involve a combination of military and political problems, which are referred by either Government to the Board. When the Board has evolved what it believes is a satisfactory solution to such a problem, it submits its proposals in the form of a joint recommendation to the two Governments. Almost invariably these recommendations have been approved. The Alaska Highway and the Northwest Staging route, which was used to ferry aircraft to Russia during the Second World War, were subjects which required much consideration by the Board, as was the chain of airfields built in Northeastern Canada to meet the needs of heavy wartime air-traffic to Europe. As the War drew to a close, the Board played a major part in evolving the formulas which were used for the disposition of American defence installations in Canada.

Statement of Principles

By 1947 the necessity for continued attention to the development of an effective programme of North American defence led the Board to recommend the adoption by the two countries of a new statement of principles for defence co-operation. The recommendation was approved by both the Canadian and United States Governments, and its main terms were announced simultaneously in Ottawa and Washington on February 12, 1947. The Ottawa announcement was made by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons.

The statement was important not only because it provided the framework for the extensive joint defence measures that have been taken since that time, but also because it defined the relation of these defence activities to the obligations of the two countries to the United Nations and at the same time threw new light on the role of the PJBD. For these reasons, it bears repeating here:

I wish to make a statement which is also being made today by the Government of the United States regarding the results of discussions which have taken place in the Permanent Joint Board on Defence on the extent to which the wartime co-operation between the armed forces of the two countries should be maintained in this post-war period. In the interest of efficiency and economy, each Government has decided that its national defence establishment shall, to the extent authorized by law, continue to collaborate for peacetime joint security purposes. The collaboration will necessarily be limited and will be based on the following principles:

- (1) Interchange of selected individuals so as to increase the familiarity of each country's defence establishment with that of the other country.