

Canada by herself cannot provide a complete defence in a modern war. The United States of America, strong and powerful as she is, cannot on the North American continent defend herself effectively without Canadian co-operation and without defence facilities on Canadian territory. Our close relationship makes it natural that we should join in an alliance for we have a common heritage of freedom and a common aspiration for peace.

Intimate Collaboration

The origin of this intimate collaboration in defence which exists between our two nations at the present time can be traced to the Ogdensburg Declaration which established the Permanent Joint Board on Defence in August 1940. This Board is still an important element in Canadian-United States relations and in the defence organization of the West.

At the end of hostilities in 1945, the United States Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy forwarded joint letters to the Canadian authorities requesting that the co-operation for defence which had existed throughout the war should continue in peacetime. The Canadian Government readily agreed to these arrangements and the Canadian Chiefs of Staff were authorized to initiate defence planning for the defence of North America with the United States Chiefs of Staff.

With the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in April of 1949 it was decided that the defence of the North American part of the NATO area would now become the responsibility of our two countries and would be guided by the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group.

Another important development which I would like to mention is the establishment of the Canada-United States Ministerial Committee on Joint Defence which was announced in a joint statement in July of last year by President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Diefenbaker. The function of this Committee is to consult on any matters affecting the defence of our two countries and to exchange information and views at the ministerial level on problems that may arise with a view to strengthening further the close and intimate co-operation between our two countries. We are, therefore, jointly responsible for the land, sea and air defence of North America.

Advance Preparations

Should our efforts to prevent the outbreak of a war fail, all of us in the United States and Canada realize the ghastly consequences which would result if a nuclear attack were launched against this continent. It is only sensible, therefore, to prepare in advance the measures which would have to be taken if a major war were to commence suddenly.