

During the war, the military members of the Board also prepared two basic defence plans. The first dealt with a situation in which Britain had lost naval control of the North Atlantic and envisaged the defence of North America being conducted under the "strategic direction" of the United States. The second provided for the co-ordination of this defence by "mutual co-operation" once the United States had become actively involved in the war.

After the United States entered the war, some of the Board's functions were taken over by the defence departments of each government. It continued, however, to be a useful forum for the informal discussion of ideas before any formal approach was made, for negotiating defence matters in a setting where both military and diplomatic viewpoints were needed, for exchanging information, for hastening executive action, following up on decisions already taken and ensuring that important projects were not set aside in the press of routine departmental business. The valuable work done by the Board during the war convinced both governments that it could play a useful role in the postwar period. On February 12, 1947, Canada and the United States issued a joint statement to the effect that military co-operation between them would continue through the Permanent Joint Board on Defence.

Organizational structure

The organization of the Board has not altered substantially since its inception. From the outset, the Board has been composed of two national sections. Each country is represented by a chairman, and by a senior representative of each of the three military services and the U.S. Department of State and the Canadian Department of External Affairs. In addition, the State Department and External Affairs each provide an official to act as secretary for their respective sections. The military services of each country also provide assistant Board members from each of the three military services. Both the diplomatic and the military members of the Board as well as the secretaries of each section hold other routine responsibilities in their home departments. Between meetings, therefore, they are in touch daily with the problems the Board is considering and with the policies of their governments on those problems.

For many years it was customary for representatives of the Canadian Departments of Transport, and Industry, Trade and Commerce to attend meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity because of the close association of those departments with matters frequently under discussion. Since 1976 however, while the Department of Transport