

Revised Nov 8, with Agenda

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C.P.H.P. (44) REPORT 5 (REVISED FINAL)

SECRET
October 24th, 1944.

POST-WAR CANADIAN DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES;
GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

SECRET
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE
Document No. 89/11TEE

Summary

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1. The paper is based upon the following assumptions:
 - i. That international problems arising from purely Canadian-United States relations will cause no irreconcilable conflict of policies and, therefore, any dangerous conflict of policies could only be occasioned by differing attitudes towards events outside this continent.
 - ii. That for several years at least there will be no direct military threat to North America.
 - iii. That the victor nations, including the United States, will maintain larger armed forces than before the war to enforce peace.

2. The present war has brought about the following developments:-
 - i. Opinion in both countries has gone far towards recognizing that the two oceans no longer provide full protection for North America and that the ultimate security of the continent depends on the maintenance of peace in Europe and Asia.
 - ii. Adequate protection against air-borne attacks, - especially from the North, Northeast and Northwest, - has become an essential part of North American defences.
 - iii. The defence of Canada, Newfoundland, Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, Bermuda and the West Indies is recognized as vital to the defence of the United States.
 - iv. Neither Canada nor the United States is likely to reduce its defences to the pre-war level.

3. It is concluded:-
 - a. that the defences of Canada should be closely coordinated with those of the United States after the war;
 - b. that the Permanent Joint Board on Defence should be retained;
 - c. that relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R. are of special concern to Canada;
 - d. that Canada must accept full responsibility for defence measures within Canadian territory;
 - e. that Canada should continue to accept general responsibility for the defence of Newfoundland and Labrador, and that the part of the United States in the defence of these territories should be limited to the operation of their leased bases in Newfoundland;
 - f. that the new vulnerability of this Continent necessitates the maintenance of larger Canadian armed forces than before the war.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XVI, July - December 1944, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 16)

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