

Henry L. Stimson, then Secretary of War, came up for part of this meeting and recorded in his diary that he told the others: "I felt that it was very possibly the turning point in the tide of the war, and that from now on we could hope for better things". As so often, he proved to be completely right. Moreover, the Ogdensburg arrangement was subsequently repeated many times in the pattern of Allied organization which carried us to victory.

This agreement showed what could be achieved by free peoples, and this memorial is a warrant for our determination to persevere together in the accomplishment of great common ends - it stands as a reminder of two great men who laboured in the cause of liberty.

Their achievements were possible because the friendship and trust between them reflected the friendship and trust between the peoples of the United States and Canada.

The Agreement was drafted, as I said, in a railway car. History has known other famous railway cars: The German surrender in 1918 was in a railway carriage; the short-lived German triumph of 1940 was, you will remember, celebrated in the same carriage. There was the closed carriage which bore Lenin across Europe to be injected into the Russian chaos in 1918.

In those cases the railway carriage was the scene of conquest, oppression and revolution. But at Ogdensburg if the stage setting was similar, the drama was very different. Here in a brief conference, the leaders of two nations drafted not a treaty, not an ultimatum, but something far more typically North American - a press release. Could such an agreement have been made by a press release between any other two countries in the world?

But that press release was as solemn a document as any agreement sealed by wax or ratified by formal resolution. For its language was the language of the spirit of two peoples. Its seal was the will and consent of free men, the united support of a whole continent.

The people of your part of the United States have always had particularly close relations with the people of Canada. It was exactly right that the foundations of the structure of joint defence should have been laid over here, and that over there, in Canada, the first formal recognition of United States and Canadian interest in their common defence should have been made by President Roosevelt at Kingston and by our Prime Minister at Woodbridge, Ontario, in August 1938. Two years later, in August 1940, when the Nazis had over-run most of Europe, the willing and friendly hands of the same two men drafted the agreement which we are commemorating today.

Our two countries had showed the way to co-operation long before this. In Jay's Treaty of Amity and Friendship of 1794, the following words appear:

"This (treaty) is intended to
promote a disposition favourable to
friendship and Good Neighbourhood."

So far as I know, that was the first time the phrase "Good Neighbour" was used by one nation of another. What two countries would better have begun a good policy?

Then in 1817 the Rush-Bagot Agreement limited the total armament on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, as well as Lake Champlain, to six small, lightly armed vessels. This must be one of the first and perhaps the only effective disarmament programme between two countries in all