

Throughout World War II that unique body, the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, served as the chief agency for co-ordinating mutual defence measures for the two nations. The Permanent Joint Board on Defence is still in existence, is still active, and meets regularly to study and recommend to the respective governments of Canada and the United States further and better measures looking to the overall defence of the Canada-United States region.

Harmonization of the post-war defence policies of Canada and the United States has continued steadily and progress has been such that for some time now the general staffs of our two countries work in complete accord and have entire agreement on doctrine, plans and preparation for the joint defence of our homelands.

The advent of thermonuclear weapons of incredible destructive power combined with the development of long range jet bombers to deliver such weapons has lent ever increasing urgency to the joint defence capability of this continent. And our two countries have been moving rapidly and effectively to meet this transcending danger.

We are convinced that the best way to avoid a war of annihilation is to make it plain to any potential enemy that collectively we have the strength to defend ourselves and overwhelming power to retaliate and destroy an aggressor.

Effective air defence requires adequate detecting apparatus, adequate communications and adequate attacking power to seek out and destroy invading planes.

For six years, as you know, Canada and the United States have been jointly building an integrated warning and communications system to serve a three fold purpose, should the need arise:

- (1) to alert fighter aircraft to the approach of hostile bombers,
- (2) to warn the civil population of that fact, and,
- (3) to enable the powerful United States strategic bombing force to get off the ground and on its way to carry out its crippling, devastating, retaliatory blow at the enemy.

It is in this project of tremendous magnitude, involving unbelievable difficulties and immense cost that co-operation between the United States and Canada has perhaps been most notable.