

matter to the Board through a member for consideration. Once a recommendation is approved by both governments, this approval becomes the executive directive to the government agencies concerned.

The bulk of the Board's work during the war was concerned with the defence of the coastal regions of the northern half of North America; but the 33 recommendations passed in this period also dealt with such subjects as the exchange of information, the allocation and flow of material resources, the safety of navigation through the Sault Ste. Marie Canals, the co-ordination of aviation training, and the disposition of defence facilities. In addition to the recommendations, which were approved entirely in most cases, in part in a few, and overtaken by events in some cases, the Board, on October 4, 1940, submitted its first and only formal report. During the war the service members of the Board also prepared two Basic Defence Plans; the first dealt with a situation in which Britain had lost control of the North Atlantic, and envisaged the defence of North America being conducted under the "strategic direction" of the United States, while the second provided for the co-ordination of this defence by "mutual co-operation" in a situation in which the United States had become an active belligerent on the Allied side.

After the United States entered the war, some of the Board's functions were taken over by the military departments of each government, but it continued to be a particularly useful agency 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 represented, for collecting and exchanging information, and for hastening executive action, smoothing out difficulties, eliminating delays, following up on decisions already taken and ensuring that important projects were not sidetracked in the press of departmental business. The valuable work done by the Board during the war convinced both governments that it could play a useful role in the post-war 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 and that the Permanent Joint Board on Defence would be continued in existence.

Since the end of the war, the Board, established originally for the primary purpose of co-ordinating the plans of the two governments for the wartime defence of North America, has gradually come to assume a somewhat different role, partly because of the changing nature of the task and partly because of the emergence of other bilateral consultative bodies in the defence field. Among these are the Military Co-operation Committee, established in 1946, the Senior Policy Committee on the Canada-United States Defence Production and Development Sharing Programme, and the Canada-United States Ministerial Committee on Joint Defence, both formed in 1958. Thus the Board is no longer the only joint body concerned with defence problems.

The emergence of the Soviet threat to Western Europe in the late 1940s, and the consequent creation of NATO, brought Canada and the United States for the first time into formal alliance in peacetime. While actively supporting this multi-national defensive alliance, the two countries continued to provide for the defence of North America on a bilateral basis, paralleling the joint defence organization established collectively by the NATO countries