

UNITED STATES

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The first task of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence was the preparation of over-all plans for the military, naval and air defence of the two countries, plans which are now working smoothly and effectively. Canadian and American forces are operating jointly in Newfoundland, Labrador and Alaska. Combined United States and Canadian military forces, supported by naval and air forces of both countries, re-occupied the island of Kiska in the Aleutians, August, 1943. Co-ordinated Canadian and American naval and air operations are constantly taking place in the North Atlantic.

On the recommendation of the Board a conference was held which resulted in the co-ordinated programme for air training on this continent.

The Board is also responsible for the establishment of an efficient system of airfields connecting the heart of the continent with Alaska, and for the construction of the Alaska Military Road. The air bases, built by Canada, were opened to traffic in September, 1941 and proved of great assistance in the construction of the road. The Alaska Military Road, built by United States Army Engineers with the co-operation of the Canadian government, was opened November 20, 1942. There are a great number of other projects which are being carried out either jointly or by the forces of one or other country as a result of decisions jointly reached, which provide a co-ordinated system of continental defence, but which for security reasons have been necessarily secret.

The problem of a growing shortage in Canada of United States dollars to pay for essential war purchases from the United States, and the problem of waste and unnecessary duplication of production facilities on the North American continent, suggested the extension to the economic sphere of the Ogdensburg Agreement.

On April 20, 1941, the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States, after a conference at Hyde Park, issued what is now known as the Hyde Park Declaration:

"Among other important matters, the President and the Prime Minister discussed measures by which the most prompt and effective utilization might be made of the productive facilities of North America for the purpose both of local and hemisphere defence, and of the assistance which in addition to their own program both Canada and the United States are rendering to Great Britain and the other democracies.

"It was agreed as a general principle that in mobilizing the resources of this continent each country should provide the other with the defence articles which it is best able to produce, and, above all, produce quickly, and that production programs should be co-ordinated to this end.

"While Canada has expanded its productive capacity manifold since the beginning of the war, there are still numerous defence articles which it must obtain in the United States, and purchases of this character by Canada will be even greater in the coming year than in the past. On the other

THE HYDE
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DECLARATION