

In these circumstances, we were driven to recognize that our defence was indivisible. The recognition of that principle marks the real significance of the Declaration to which this city of Ogdensburg has lent its name. And it is a principle which - enlarged to conform to the changing configurations of the world in which we live - continues to this day to govern our approach to the problems of defence.

The second result of the Ogdensburg meeting was the setting up of a Permanent Joint Board on Defence. For many years, this was to serve as the main focus for co-operation between our two countries in the realm of defence. If we scan the Ogdensburg Declaration carefully, we find that it has, in fact, only one operative sentence. And that is the sentence which says that "it has been agreed that a Permanent Joint Board on Defence shall be set up at once by the two countries". And so, in this unspectacular way, Canada and the United States marked the transition from friendly association to positive alliance.

The Permanent Joint Board on Defence has taken its firm place in the institutional pattern of relations between our two countries. There were those, in the early years, who looked upon it as essentially a creature of war which would not long survive the cessation of hostilities. But events proved them wrong. For, when our two governments decided in 1947 that military co-operation between us would continue, they also decided that, within the framework of that co-operation, there would continue to be an important part for the Board to play. Thus the Board has served to confirm the confidence of the men of Ogdensburg who, from the outset, invested it with the title of permanence.

The Board, then, is the real celebrant of this anniversary occasion. The Prime Minister of Canada has, therefore, asked me to convey this message to the members of the Board:

"Throughout its quarter-century of dedicated service, the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence has symbolized the spirit of friendly co-operation which characterizes relations between our two countries. Created to meet the requirements of wartime, it has continued to fulfil a valuable role in North American defence. On this, its twenty-fifth anniversary, I congratulate the Board and wish it continued success."

I am glad to convey this message to Mr. Dana Wilgress, one of the present joint Chairmen, and, through him, to Ambassador Matthews, who unfortunately could not be with us today. I also want to pay tribute on this occasion to the many eminent personalities on both sides who have lent their prestige to the work of the Board. I must resist the temptation of citing them by name. But, being on the soil of the State of New York, I may be forgiven for recalling that the first United States Chairman of the Board was Fiorello LaGuardia, a man who will not soon be forgotten, especially by New Yorkers. And perhaps I may also recall that one of the early members on our side was the then Lieutenant-Colonel Vanier, who is today the distinguished Governor General of Canada.