

Defence shall be set up at once by the two countries.

"This Permanent Joint Board on Defence shall commence immediate studies relating to sea, land and air problems including personnel and material. It will consider in the broad sense the defence of the north half of the Western hemisphere.

"The Permanent Joint Board on Defence will consist of four or five members from each country, most of them from the services. It will meet shortly."

Issued with unique informality, this press release was the basis for the establishment of the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence (PJBD). The text was published in the *Canada Treaty Series* and passed as an Order-in-Council, while in the United States the *Ogdensburg Declaration* was viewed as an executive agreement that did not require ratification by the Senate. Public reaction in both countries was favourable. Canada and the United States had, in fact, advanced from a position of friendly defence co-operation to one of positive alliance.

Wartime work of the Board

The first meeting of the Board took place in Ottawa on August 26, 1940, when seven recommendations were passed, more than a fifth of all the

Board's recommendations for the entire war. This was possible because a backlog of urgent problems had already received some joint bilateral consideration. During the remainder of the year the Board met every month, generally alternating sites between Canada and the United States. The first meeting in Ottawa was followed by one in Washington with other meetings held at the sites of proposed defence projects. Later in the war the Board usually met alternately in Montreal and New York. There was no fixed schedule adhered to as the Board met as often as required. During 1941, there were only eight meetings, but in 1942, with the United States in the war, the number of meetings increased to 11. There were seven meetings in 1943, five in 1944 and 1945 and since then an average of three a year.

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 the exchange of information, the allocation and flow of material resources, the co-ordination of aviation training and the disposition of defence facilities. The recommendations were approved entirely in many cases by both governments although some were overtaken by events.