

War was declared on Italy on June 10, 1940, when that country declared war on the United Kingdom and France. For Canada, the collapse of France and the German occupation of the small neutral countries of Western Europe was marked by redoubled efforts to strengthen the front lines of the Allied struggle against the Axis, and by increasing collaboration with the United States in all matters pertaining to defence and the production of war equipment.

The period following the fall of France was marked by notable developments in the relations between Canada and the United States. These developments, in turn, were an aspect of the growing co-operation of the United States with the British Commonwealth and the other countries engaged in hostilities with the Axis powers.

The outcome of the Ogdensburg Agreement of Aug. 17, 1940, was the establishment of the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence. On Sept. 3, 1940, the exchange of destroyers for bases was agreed upon by the United States and Britain. As a result of this exchange the destroyer strength of the Royal Canadian Navy was doubled. The Lease-Lend Act was passed on Mar. 11, 1941. The Hyde Park Declaration, embodying an agreement between Canada and the United States to collaborate in the production of defence materials, was issued by the Prime Minister and President Roosevelt on Apr. 20, 1941. In furtherance of the agreement reached at Hyde Park in April, Joint Production Committees were established by Canada and the United States on Nov. 5, 1941.

Canada's relations with the other nations of the western hemisphere have been strengthened by the exchange of Ministers with the Argentine, Brazil and Chile, and by the visit to the countries of South America of a trade mission headed by the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce (August-October, 1941).

A Canadian High Commissioner to Newfoundland was appointed on July 31, 1941; and a Canadian consulate was established at the French island of St. Pierre in August.

The growing concern of Canada with the Far East was reflected in the establishment of a Chinese legation at Ottawa on Feb. 26, 1942, and the announcement that a Canadian Minister will be sent to China.

The steady growth of Canada's share in the defence of Britain was reflected in the visits of a number of Canadian Cabinet Ministers to Britain. Also, in August and September, 1941, the Prime Minister, Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, spent three weeks in Britain. In the course of his visit, the Prime Minister attended a number of meetings of the War Cabinet of the United Kingdom, conferred informally with the Prime Minister of Great Britain and other members of the British Government, and inspected the Canadian armed forces.

In the words of the Prime Minister, the German attack on Soviet Russia on June 22, 1941, removed the last shadow of doubt concerning the purpose of Hitler to dominate the world. The same day, the Prime Minister described the Nazi attack as a new phase of the attack on Britain and all the democracies. In accordance with this view, as the Prime Minister announced in Parliament on June 15, 1942, an agreement with the U.S.S.R. was signed for the establishment of direct diplomatic relations. Poland, Yugoslavia, Norway, Greece and Czechoslovakia have also established legations at Ottawa.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, Japan delivered without warning what was obviously a carefully planned attack upon widely scattered territories and forces of the