

"The fundamental historical fact ... is that the nation state, by itself and relying exclusively on national policy and national power, is inadequate for progress or even for survival in the nuclear age. As the founders of the North Atlantic Treaty foresaw, the growing interdependence of states, politically and economically as well as militarily, calls for an ever-increasing measure of international cohesion and co-operation. Some states may be able to enjoy a degree of political and economic independence when things are going well. No state, however powerful, can guarantee its security and its welfare by national action alone".

NATO's First Task

If I may be pardoned a certain pride of co-authorship, I believe that passage expresses pretty clearly the basis of NATO and the principles upon which it must live and grow. It leads inevitably to the conclusion that the first task of NATO is to look to its internal strength - military and diplomatic - and to its unity. I would like to go on from there to some more particular thoughts, particularly about unity, without which our strength will not be sufficient. That unity, moreover, must be based on something deeper than defence co-operation alone if it is to survive. As we wrote in our report, "there cannot be unity in defence and disunity in foreign policy". That seems to me to be obvious, but some years of participation in international affairs have led me to the somewhat cynical conclusion that the obvious is often more difficult to implement than the obscure.

Triangular Relationship

The unity of NATO, its cohesion and strength, depend primarily upon the closest possible co-operation between the United States, the United Kingdom and France. They are the heart and soul - and much of the muscle - of the Atlantic Community and it ought to be the task of all of us to work for the maintenance and strengthening of the good relationship between them. There is nothing that I know of in contemporary international affairs which is more important.

The efforts which we continue to make - and rightly - to settle problems in the United Nations are no substitute for, though I hope they will always be complementary to, this other and closer co-operation.

Perhaps a Canadian may be pardoned for showing a special interest in this triangular relationship, for we are, in a sense, a part of every side of the triangle.

The United States shares with us the North American Continent. We are linked with her by ties of friendship and neighbourliness, of geography and trade and self-interest.