

It is difficult for me to imagine a situation in which the projection of Canadian interests abroad could conflict in any serious way with the interests of our allies in NATO and, more particularly, with the fundamental interests of the United States. This does not, of course, imply that invariably and in all matters can the United States count upon the automatic agreement of my country, nor does it imply either that we are content or shall be content to accept without comment important decisions on matters in which we have not been consulted. We feel pretty strongly that discussion and consultation, far from being barriers to effective action, are essential if a coalition is to be able to take any effective action whatsoever.

The student of international affairs will find in his examination of Canadian foreign policies no very great complexities. Our emergence as an important middle power over the last few years has perhaps left us a little self-conscious and a little breathless, and our experience in two successive generations of world wars and of the grim aftermath of the last war have exercised a profound change, as I have suggested earlier, upon the attitude of Canadians towards the rest of the world. We have also a number of somewhat special problems, which I have outlined, as an obvious consequence of our geographical position and of our international trading activities.

Although we may have once thought that we could work out our own salvation without much reference to the rest of the world, I can assure you that we no longer nurture this illusion. We have accepted grave international commitments which we take with the utmost seriousness. But we have also important domestic responsibilities and we wish profoundly that we could get on with the job without the interruptions and the heavy costs of ensuring that a way of life which seems good to us is not seriously menaced or destroyed. All Canadians have been heartened by what may be the pale dawning of a new era when, increasingly, international conferences will be organized to promote the welfare of man and not merely to arrange temporary measures to delay his destruction. Whether then, to maintain with our allies the things which we cherish or to co-operate in efforts to achieve a richer and more peaceful life, I know that I speak for my fellow Canadians when I say that we are ready and willing to assume our full measure of responsibility in mankind's search for security and peace in the world.

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