

there has been established a very fine relationship among the member countries of the Plan and the Plan lives up to its title.

Canada has found a large number of projects where Canadians and Asians have worked harmoniously together, have learned from each other and together have made an effective contribution to the development of a particular country. Canadian experts sent out to Asia and the Asian student trainees who have come to Canada in a two-way stream of traffic have enriched and broadened our understanding of one another.

Relations with United States

We also derive considerable strength and influence in international affairs from our unique relationship with our large and friendly neighbour to the south, the United States. Both the Americans and ourselves tend to take for granted the deep understanding and friendship which permeates the daily relations of our two countries, but the fact is that there are few neighbouring states in the world between which ordinary day to day life is so intertwined.

Contacts at the citizen level are matched by a network of inter-governmental arrangements. In the realm of defence, we have the Permanent Joint Board, established in 1940, and, of course, NORAD, the jointly-operated air-defence command responsible for the air defence of the continent as a whole. For boundary questions, we have the International Joint Commission, which, I believe, is an example to the world of how transboundary resources can be dealt with in a civilized and equitable way. At the ministerial level there are two standing committees, one on trade and economic matters and the other on defence. About six weeks ago, my colleagues the Ministers of Finance, Defence and Defence Production and I attended a meeting of the Canada-United States Defence Committee at Camp David, at which we not only discussed frankly problems of bilateral defence concern, but also exchanged views on the broad range of international problems facing the world today. The essence of these contacts is that views are freely expressed by each side and are listened to by the other side with understanding and respect.

Now I am not going to pretend that we never have any differences of opinion with our southern neighbours; we do, and these differences invariably get free play in the press of both countries. It is inevitable that the impact of a large population such as that of the United States on her much less populous neighbour is profound, and we cannot afford to be complacent if we wish to preserve our separate identity as a nation. It is the Government's policy to speak up frankly when Canadian national interests are suffering as a consequence of United States policies. I would stress the word "frankly" but hasten to add that we get as good as we give. This is the way friends face and overcome their differences — and I am sure you would have it no other way.

Canada and Latin America

Finally, as we survey Canada's role in world affairs, we should never neglect the close friendship we enjoy with the other nations of the Western Hemisphere —