

Atlantic Council. The only subject on the agenda of that meeting is exchange of views on the international situation between the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic countries, all of whom will be there and all of whom will be discussing the subject that I am discussing now. That is the kind of subject that should, I think, be discussed at the North Atlantic Council not only at occasional meetings of ministers but continually through the permanent representatives so that in that agency of consultation we can clear our views on defence and foreign policy.

We must also constantly seek not only to preserve but to widen and develop still further our attitudes and habits of confidence, frank discussion and consultation, restraint and tolerance. Notwithstanding the importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which I have just emphasized. This must be done on a scale which is not limited to the North Atlantic alliance but which is as broad as the globe. Indeed, our co-operation, our friendships must extend beyond our western civilization. Improving the economic and social conditions under which the major part of humanity lives will not ensure peace but it will make peace more likely. More important possibly than even economic aid is the opportunity for understanding and for genuine friendliness between the peoples of Asia in their hundreds of millions and those of the western world. These Asians will form their impressions of our civilization and values above all by what they learn and sense of our real attitudes. That is only one reason, I think, why all members of the House have been so happy over the magnificent results of the journey of our Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) into that part of the world.

I would go even further and say that our sense of understanding must even extend to the very people whom we think threaten our peace. We cannot be soft-headed about this matter for power in the hands of irresponsible rulers could be dangerous to our peace. But while we need not be soft-headed, we should certainly be clear-headed, I agree that we must be careful and alert. But also we must not let fear freeze our diplomacy into immobility or fire it into panic action. The purpose of Canadian policy--and I do not think there is any division of opinion in this country about this--is not merely to build up military collective strength, important as that is. Our purpose is to work together with our friends in solving our own problems and also, if possible, to negotiate with those whom we fear, in solving those other problems which now divide the world. Canada is anxious to pay its part also in this form of collective security, anxious to play its part in seeking, by negotiation, international solutions to differences, to seek them by negotiation from the strength, which we are now collecting, and with strength but also with wisdom, with a full realization of the calamitous result of failure, and in the hope that one day security will rest upon a stronger basis even than the certainty of massive retaliation, atomic retaliation if you like, against anyone who would break the peace; retaliation which would certainly annihilate the enemy but might also destroy ourselves.