

In considering Canada's external relations, we should remember, of course, that a nation's long-term policy in international affairs must inevitably be closely bound up with its own domestic life. This was recognized more than thirty years ago by our late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King, when he made this significant observation at the Imperial Conference of 1923.

"Foreign policy I conceive as simply the sum of dealings or relationships or policies which the government of the country carries on with other countries. It is in large part an extension of domestic policy. It depends upon the balance of social and political forces, upon the industrial organization, upon the whole background of the people's life."

This means, then, that if a nation is founded on a tradition of freedom -- as the United States and Canada are -- and if its internal affairs are managed according to democratic processes, respect for the rights and freedoms of others is likely to be carried over into its international dealings. For this reason, the respect and influence of any one country on the broad world scene will be measured, in part, by its success in managing its own affairs. By the same token, a nation that follows a dictatorial form of government will bring an authoritarian approach to its relations with other nations.

An important development for Canada over the past two decades has been our greatly increased stature among the nations. Our voice is heard with respect at the United Nations and at world conferences dealing with problems in many fields. Three years ago, our distinguished Secretary of State for External Affairs, my colleague the Hon. L.B. Pearson, was elected to the high office of President of the seventh General Assembly of the United Nations. On frequent occasions, as in the disarmament talks of last autumn, Canada has been called upon to play the role of mediator in delicate negotiations on vital matters. This I regard as a tribute to the skill and competence of the men and women who comprise our foreign service.

It would, of course, be idle to pretend that Canada, like other countries in the free world, has succeeded in constantly keeping the initiative in planning much of its foreign policy during these disturbing years since the Second Great war ended and the second little peace began. We have, as you know, rarely been in a position to take the initiative and we have, throughout these years, been very largely on the defensive.

In consequence, our foreign policy has been what I might call responsive; just as when, in playing hockey, with two or three of the Canadian team in the penalty box -- a phenomenon which does, on occasion, arise -- we are constrained to play a purely defensive role rather than an aggressive one in which we can use our full forces of strength and initiative.

Perhaps our most successful joint venture in international affairs and certainly the one most familiar to the public has been the establishment and the strengthening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This, of course, we, with our friends and partners in the North Atlantic