

So far, through our combined efforts, NATO has been successful in preventing acts of aggression against us. NATO must continue to be militarily strong so that our efforts may be equally successful in the future. But NATO is more than a military alliance, central as that undoubtedly is to our joint effort. Canadians believe that NATO is a stage in the evolution of a true Atlantic coalition between like-minded states who uphold the same basic ideals and values about human rights and dignity.

Throughout my private conversations with our distinguished visitors, there ran an underlying awareness that the success of the alliance, in the last analysis, will rest on the ability to achieve a true partnership of the peoples of Western Europe and North America. In other times the key to that partnership rested mainly on British-American understanding, with Canada from time to time making some contributions to such understanding. The gratifying result is the intimacy which now exists between Washington and London. Today, with Europe fully recovered from the devastation of war, the Atlantic Community must rest on broader foundations. Canada, as a North American nation with a cherished heritage and bilingual culture stemming from two great mother countries, may have useful opportunities to exert quiet influence towards complete trans-Atlantic entente.

#### Canada's Military Commitments

This meeting was timely in another sense: it gave the Government an opportunity to remove the doubts which continued to linger in the minds of our allies concerning the position of Canada with regard to the commitments undertaken on behalf of our armed forces by the former Government. To that end, the Minister of National Defence took the opportunity on the first day of the conference to set the record straight by confirming to the Council in ministerial session the information which had already been given to Parliament two days before by the Prime Minister, namely, that negotiations had been resumed with the United States relating to defensive weapons systems which have been the subject of previous discussions with the United States.

The Ottawa meetings not only strengthened the military side of NATO but also strengthened the bonds of co-operation between us as we pursue our common ideals. As Mr. Pearson stated:

"We have a responsibility to the future and to humanity to make sure in the North Atlantic community that our dealings with one another and with the rest of the world are marked by justice, tolerance and charity. If we can discharge that responsibility while at the same time building up energetically our defence we may then also pray that providence in its own good time will bring in a world whose ramparts can be dismantled and where peace will prevail.