

which have much to do with relations within the Western family of nations and nothing to do with aggressive intent, I still should not rule out the possibility of French acceptance of the spirit and intent, if not the letter, of this instrument. In fact, General de Gaulle did express his approval of the Moscow agreement.

A False Comparison

There have been attempts to draw a comparison between the reactions of Communist China and France to the signature of the test-ban treaty, and, indeed, to go farther and to see in the relations between France and the Western alliance some parallel to the rift which has developed between Peking and Moscow. I would remind those who have indulged in these superficial judgments that they should re-examine the recent pronouncements of the leaders of France and China. General de Gaulle's statement of July 29 was less a pronouncement of his views on East-West relations than a ringing reaffirmation of the enduring character of Franco-American friendship and of the Atlantic alliance. Contrast this with the charges of treason that are daily being levelled by Peking at Moscow. For an explanation of the position of France on these great international issues we must look not outside the Western alliance but at the changing relations which are taking place within that alliance as a consequence of the re-emergence of Europe as a major centre of power within the world. This development itself was in turn in large measure made possible by the enlightened policies of the U.S. over the last 15 years, and it is inconceivable to me that in the moment of success of policies so persistently pursued there should not be an acceptance of the consequential change in relations that inevitably had to ensue. But I stress that these are fraternal problems, which can and will be resolved without straining the fabric of the Western alliance, and certainly without harmful consequences to any outside nation.

There is no doubt that we are living in an age of revolutionary change and great expectations. The striving of individuals all over the world for greater freedom is a fundamental fact of modern historical times. Any régime, whatever its ideology, which ignores this fact for very long, does so at its peril. No matter how limited in extent, the trends in the Soviet Union and other Communist countries away from the Stalinist terror are evidence of this fact. We rejoice that the first faltering steps toward greater individual freedom have been made. We rejoice not only for the sake of individuals concerned but also for the opportunities this may eventually provide for more normal relations between ourselves and them.

Implications for Canada

What, then, are the implications for Canada in the developments which I have been discussing? First it must be understood that Canada is bound by treaty obligations and by traditions and national interests to the Atlantic world, and to those other