

I also want to say a word to this distinguished audience about Canada's attitude toward the monarch. In the recent past, there has been a good deal of talk some of it I fear mischievous, a good deal of it ill-informed, about some of the steps which we in our country are taking to establish with clarity the role of Canada and its relationship to the monarchy. I want to emphasize with all of the vigour that I can here this afternoon that Canada has every intention of remaining what it has been for all of these years, a constitutional monarchy with Her Majesty the Queen fully recognized and in every respect what that definition implies. There is a great love for Her Majesty in Canada. Not only is there a respect for the institution of the monarchy, but I must tell you in all sincerity that Her Majesty has brought to that traditional respect a wide-spread affection within our country, an awareness that our country, Canada, and the Commonwealth is exceedingly well led at the present time in the sense of Her Majesty's personal presence, that she has a comprehension and awareness that is serving all of us well in the troubled times in which we are living. I have no hesitation in saying to you that I cannot conceive of any development in my country, either constitutional or political, that would be likely to change, in any way that is important, the role of the monarchy and the great respect, affection and indeed love that we hold for Her Majesty. And so this too is something which brings us all together, which is a common kind of heritage and background that we possess.

There are very challenging days ahead for the world. Sometimes I despair that we will ever be able to keep up with them. I commented to my colleague, Cyrus Vance, last week that diplomacy has made about a 180 degree turn in the last number of years, whereas it was the role of foreign ministers once to travel to those countries which were friendly in order to reaffirm those friendships, today it is almost necessary to lob a few shells into a country before you justify a visit by a foreign minister and it is always a fire-fighting kind of operation. It is regrettable, therefore, that I in my capacity do not always have the chance to get to all of the Commonwealth countries. I have managed to get to a good many, but I never miss a chance to return here to London, which is the fountain-head of the Commonwealth, and in a very real sense reflects today its vigour and its continuing importance.

And if I take one more moment, I would hope that the British Government and the British people will continue to have the same keen awareness of the importance of the Commonwealth that I have described as being important to us in Canada. I, of course, would not presume in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, to tell Britishers what they ought to do or what their policies ought to be, but I think that