

understanding of what, at a particular moment, was the right way out of danger, and the right way to move ahead. These rare individuals had always before them an ideal of human brotherhood, of a world at peace and with freedom. They also had a firm and confident sense of direction in trying to achieve their ideal. Chris Herter and Adlai Stevenson are such men.

Clarence Streit is another who for many long years now has accepted the challenge of a great idea - the idea of a federal union of the peoples lying on both sides of the North Atlantic as a step to an even wider union of all men. That idea has not yet been realized. Indeed, in some of the Atlantic countries, it seems at the moment to be of little interest. But it is acting upon the societies of our two countries and I believe is doing the same, although perhaps less noticeably, in Europe. It has life and dynamism. Its impact on politics in North America has increased and this is bound to convey a reflection on the other side of the Atlantic.

NATO - the Atlantic alliance - is an encouraging, if imperfect, reflection of this ideal. It has served us well for the past 16 years. NATO could hardly have achieved its political and its military expression, however, if the yeast of the Atlantic unity idea had not been at work before the Treaty of 1949 was signed. When Clarence Streit published Union Now, he was called a visionary, a dreamer. How could governments and peoples, long imbued with their own proud traditions of history, of nationalism, and of sovereignty, how could they give up some of their very substance, of their state freedom, to form a union with other nations -- even for those national purposes which, the history of our century has shown, could no longer be achieved except by collective action? But they did.

If the lessons of history are depressing, it is because they seem never to be learned - at least until it is too late. Yet we can also take some comfort from this historical record, as we look at the scene around us and the road ahead.

If we tend to become too depressed over the troubles that face the world today, we should recall how things seemed in the Atlantic world in the forties.

In 1948, it was our hope that Western Europe and North America, working through co-operating national governments, could provide a nucleus of military strength, economic prosperity and political stability, around which a global balance could be re-established and the extension by force of aggressive Communist imperialism be stopped. We did not know at that time whether this would be possible at all. We did not know, whether, if it were possible, it would take, five, ten, 20 or 50 years to accomplish. We certainly cannot even say today that it has been accomplished. But we have reached a kind of provisional framework - an equilibrium - in which we can live together, both we and the Communist states in Europe, with a hope for progress to something better than mere co-existence.

Indeed, some of our troubles today are the results of our successes in these recent years. In 1948, we were anxious and frightened - with cause - at the threatened extension westward of totalitarian Communism, into those European countries which, while still free, were badly shaken in their political