

There is, however, one definite advantage which Communists have in negotiation. They speak with one voice. But in a coalition of free states, large and small, powerful and weak, each has its own voice, each has its own pride, prejudice and public opinion. For this reason we hear too often the "voices" rather than the "voice" of freedom.

There may be no more imperative necessity facing us in 1954 than that of working out the applying satisfactory and effective methods of consultation and cooperation within the coalition, so that we can negotiate with the Kremlin - and Peking - as a well-knit and cohesive group.

The United States, the United Kingdom and France have the main responsibility for this but Canada too has a part to play. Our reputation as a people is good, our strength and stature is envied, our objectivity and good faith is recognized. In short, Canada's international public relations are healthy, which is another way of saying that our position and prestige is high.

This gives us justifiable reason for pride. But it also imposes on us obligations and responsibilities.

We have general obligations as a member of the United Nations and NATO. We also have a special responsibility - which involves a special problem in international public relations - in respect of our relations with the United States. That responsibility is, however, reciprocal - for friendship and mutual understanding require two-way effort.

These relations with the United States are becoming more and more important to both countries; and more varied and complicated. It is not surprising, therefore, that problems are increasing. We must meet and solve them with a minimum of bickering and a maximum of that good will that has been characteristic in this century of the relations between our two countries. Any other approach - or any other result - would be unthinkable. If Canada and the United States cannot grow closer together in good neighbourhood and friendship - and in the mutual respect and understanding on which friendship must rest - what chance is there for peace and stability in the world.

I want to end on this note and in doing so I beg your forgiveness if I repeat as my concluding words something I said in New York a few weeks ago. "We Canadians claim the special privilege, as a close neighbour and a candid friend, of grousing about our big, our overwhelming partner, and of complaining at some of the less attractive manifestations of her way of life. But we Canadians also know, from our own experiences and from our relationship with the United States, which is closer than that of any other country, that the sound and fury of contemporary clamour, while it may at times mar and even conceal, cannot destroy the noble qualities and the deep strength of that land on whom there now rests (for there is no other strong foundation) the hopes of all peoples, for peace and for free existence."

If we can make real progress during 1954 towards that good objective - peace and free existence - then indeed it will be a year for thanksgiving.