

As I have said, it is inevitable that states come into conflict and the closer their relations the more the points of conflict. It may seem paradoxical but it is nevertheless true that, the closer and friendlier our relations have become with our great neighbour the United States, the more numerous have been the points of conflict. Similarly, the fewest points of conflict arise between Canada and countries with which we have the least to do.

It is something like a man and his wife. The longer they live together and the more children they have the more they have to argue about, even if it is all friendly.

What complicate international relations enormously are conflicts that arise not because of real differences of national interest which can be assessed and resolved but because of mistrust and suspicion. And the tragedy is that the deliberate inculcation of mistrust and suspicion has become an accepted instrument of international politics.

This is why it has seemed to the Canadian Government that one of the things this country can do in international affairs is to help to break down the barriers and the isolation between nations that give rise to mistrust and suspicion, just as your association by its very existence helps to break down these barriers between individuals of different race, religion or nationality. That is why we are negotiating to exchange diplomats with the Chinese Government in Peking. We hope to help to bring those hundreds of millions of Chinese people more effectively into the international community. Perhaps others will follow our example. This is why, in Europe, Canada is actively seeking in appropriate fashion to develop contacts between the Communist and Western worlds - cultural contacts, trade contacts, co-operative projects, so that the necessary basis of confidence can be built up to allow for détente and the establishment of better and saner political relations between the world's two great power centres.

It is well to recognize, of course, that efforts to promote understanding will sometimes be resisted. There are those who prefer isolation, and even some who, as I have mentioned, deliberately create mistrust and suspicion to advance their ends. There is little doubt that one of the reasons for the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia was the fear that the barriers were breaking down too rapidly, that the infection of freedom was spreading in Eastern Europe.

This is an illustration of one of the moral dilemmas facing nations and foreign ministers. How far is one justified in promoting justice, amity, co-operation and understanding if in so doing one is to invite repression of the very people one is trying to help?

The lesson of Hungary is one that will not soon be forgotten. Were the Hungarians misled into believing that Western support for their cause was more than moral support?