

The sudden flare-up of this ancient fear that we are about to become "the 50th state of the Union" may have been encouraged by the feeling that defence co-operation with our neighbour and within NATO is no longer so necessary, now that there is a new and better look in Moscow. Joseph Stalin has been degraded by those men who bowed so low before him when he was alive. Therefore, it is suggested we can take it easier now and even indulge in the luxury of suspecting each other. This feeling that it is now safe to relax is a dangerous delusion and, if persisted in, would weaken the unity and strength of the free nations which has itself been a main reason for the improvement which has taken place.

The cult of personality may for the time being have become a communist heresy; but the cult of communist domination remains. So the non-communist world cannot yet afford to indulge in weakness or division or complacency.

There are conclusions to be drawn from this in respect of Canadian-American defence relations, as well as in wider fields.

If worries over United States participation in certain joint defence arrangements in Canada seem recently to have increased, that is at least partly due to the feeling that the menace of communist imperialism has decreased. As Mr. Dulles said in his speech in New York on Tuesday, "Allies no longer feel the same compulsion to submerge differences as when they faced together a clear and present danger". The danger, however, has not disappeared. It may be taking new forms, but it still faces us.

Similarly, if anxiety over certain economic aspects - particularly the foreign investment aspect of Canadian-United States relations - seems also to have increased - or at least to become more vocal - in certain Canadian quarters, that may be due, paradoxically, to the very abundance of the evidence of the economic progress that Canada has been making in recent years. We have been going through our greatest period of development. We can as a people take our full share of credit for this. But we should also remember that it could not have taken place in the way and in the time that it has, without outside participation, especially by investors from the United States, but also from Great Britain and other countries.

We have recently been reminded in Ottawa - and elsewhere - that participation of this kind brings its own problems and poses a threat to that national control, indeed to that independence, which we rightly cherish and intend to maintain.