

*Address by President Eisenhower*

It is good to return, to see old friends and to make new ones.

I came here first in 1946 to congratulate the Canadian people on the brilliant role played by the Canadian forces you placed under my command in the world war which had then recently ended in victory. My next visit was made as commander of NATO forces in Europe. In 1953 I returned as president, and talked in this house of some aspects of the relationship between our two countries.

I then spoke of the St. Lawrence seaway in prospective terms. Today it is near completion and next year it will be opened. This is truly a great joint accomplishment. It will open up important regions of both Canada and the United States to ocean traffic. It will ever stand as a monument to what can be achieved by the common effort of two sovereign nations.

On that same occasion I spoke of the need to devise ways to protect our North America from any surprise attack. Since then we have made great strides. The distant early warning or D.E.W. line has been built and placed in operation. In the process of its construction I am sure much has been learned which will contribute to the more rapid development of the northern reaches of Canada and our new state, Alaska.

Last month an agreement was concluded between our two governments to establish a combined air defence headquarters for this continent. We have also, both of us, striven, as we will continue to strive, for the Soviet union's agreement to a system of inspection to protect against surprise attack through the Arctic. Recent Soviet communications have strengthened the hope that they will come to see that by such a system any basis for their professed fears of an attack across the pole will be removed. For Canada and the United States such a system in operation would add measurably to our security against a sudden attack. Possibly it might also pave the way for still further measures of arms control and permit some reduction of the burden and danger of modern armaments.

Both of these developments, the seaway, a broadened, deepened road for peaceful commerce, and the strengthening of our common defence of this continent, strikingly illustrate two things. The first is that change is the law of life and of relations between nations. When two great peoples such as ours, energetic and optimistic, live side by side in all the diversity that freedom offers, change is rapid and brings in its wake problems, sometimes frictions.

The second lesson I see in these common achievements in diverse fields is that by mutual respect, understanding and with good

will we can find acceptable solutions to any problems which exist or may arise between us. It is important to remember this. Such differences as are from time to time expressed never affect the similarity of purpose which binds our two countries together.

Of course, each of us possesses a distinctive national character and history. You won your independence by evolution, and the United States by revolution. Our forms of government, though both cast in the democratic pattern, are greatly different. Indeed, sometimes it appears that many of our misunderstandings spring from an imperfect knowledge on the part of both of us of the dissimilarities in our forms of government. And yet, despite these dissimilarities in form, our two governments are developing and are increasingly using effective ways to consult and act together. This we do to meet the problems that confront us in our relations with each other, and in the relations of both with other nations of the world.

We share the basic belief that only under free institutions, with government the servant and not the master, can the individual secure his life, his liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are both determined to frame and follow policies which safeguard the lives and homes of our people, their peace of mind, their material well-being and, above all other things, their ideals. True to these ideals both of our countries, for example, are determined that the great decisions of peace and war will remain always under civilian control.

Moreover, we both recognize a design of aggressive communist imperialism which threatens every free nation. Both of us face a military threat and political attacks. Our system of free enterprise is challenged throughout the world by a state-directed, state-controlled economic system. Indeed, this could well be the area in which the competition will be most bitter and most decisive between the free world and communist imperialism. We must never allow ourselves to become so preoccupied with the differences between our two nations that we lose sight of the transcendent importance of free world co-operation in the winning of the global struggle.

Acting in accordance with our common dedication the two of us, with others, have drawn together in collective security arrangements. The most notable of these is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in which both Canada and the United States are equal partners. We are both determined to maintain what George Washington described as "a respectable military posture." We are