

The Commonwealth of Nations, as in the past, served to link diverse continents and civilizations and to enable its members to consult on international issues and on other questions of mutual interest. While friction between some Commonwealth members continued, this did not prevent a large measure of general co-operation in matters of common concern.

In our relations with the United States, the year was marked by the commencement, after half a century of study and negotiation, of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project. Another noteworthy development was extended co-operation in joint defence. Canada continued to keep in close touch with the United States in all important questions of international policy, particularly on those affecting the preservation of peace, the maintenance of security, and the broadening of prosperity.

It can no longer be said—if indeed it ever could—that there is any part of the world in which the Canadian people have no interest. Even in purely material terms, their interest in other countries is world-wide. They trade abroad, they travel abroad, they reside abroad, they invest abroad. Modern developments in transportation, communications, and armaments have linked the remotest parts of the planet, for good or ill. The opening of further Canadian missions, particularly in the Middle East and in the Caribbean area, has inaugurated valuable contacts which will assist both in promoting Canadian interests in those regions and in enabling Canada to play an effective part in the international community.

The year now ended has been an eventful one. There have been important successes, but there have also been days when the Western democracies have had to face setbacks. Canada, along with many other countries, has been engaged in the search for peace and security. This goal is not yet in sight, but we must continue with unceasing effort, and always with sincerity and humility, to explore all avenues which seem to lead in this direction.