

It is a privilege for me to speak to such a distinguished group of parliamentarians, particularly in a calmer atmosphere than oft times prevails in the normal course of debate among parliamentarians. At the same time I am mindful that I must avoid the pitfalls of the parliamentarian Jenyns, an eighteenth century British member, described as a man whose eloquence had the power to clear the fullest house in half an hour.

You are doubly welcome here, first as parliamentarians but more particularly as representatives of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which has a special meaning for us. Let me, therefore, assure you of the warmth and sincerity of our greetings. We hope you will see something of Canada and get to know us better.

This morning I have been asked to speak briefly on the Commonwealth and international security. In the post-war world, global security has become an increasingly complex matter. It is no longer solely a question of vast military forces facing each other in a more or less static posture of wary watchfulness. Bipolarity and the balance of terror founded upon the deep apprehension of a short, massively-destructive, global nuclear holocaust have given way in the era of détente and interdependence to a much more complicated and subtle global situation: a situation of perhaps greater security in the relationship of the super-powers but with perhaps a greater variety of no less serious international problems. Nuclear proliferation, the continuing development of more awesome weaponry and the emergence of many local conflict situations, still challenge our diplomatic skills and threaten the well-being, even the survival, of all of us. The confrontations that remain unresolved in areas like the Middle East and southern Africa represent potential flashpoints of international conflict with the omnipresent danger of escalation. By a constructive contribution to eliminating such potential triggers of international conflict, the Commonwealth can strengthen global security.

At the same time, security can no longer be conceived in exclusively military terms. Economic security, in terms of access to raw materials and energy resources, as well as in terms of the distribution of the world's wealth and the striving of less-developed nations for a reasonable standard of living have become leading issues in international affairs.