

What then are some of the reassuring evidences of the improvement to which I refer? In answering this question I shall be more general than might be the case at other times less politically controversial than at the moment.

(1) I recall the visit of President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles to Ottawa in July. On that occasion we examined in frankness and forthrightness and mutual confidence, matters of great importance to our two countries. The measure of that frankness was evident in the President's speech to the Parliament of Canada in which, in Canadian surroundings, the points of view which guide the United States were reviewed.

May I divert here to say that a most encouraging aspect of events of the past year has been the manner in which the editorial writers and columnists of the United States and Canada have placed added emphasis upon examining and understanding the various points at issue, as well as to the many points of contact where we are in complete or substantial agreement. They have written with understanding -- and, I believe, written more quantitatively and more frankly than ever before.

(2) Arising out of the discussions with President Eisenhower, a Cabinet Committee, to be known as the Canada-United States Committee on Joint Defence, has been provided for, which will consult regularly on matters bearing upon the common defence of the North American continent which lies within the North Atlantic Treaty area.

This Committee, which will have its first meeting in the next few months, will not seek in any way to take over the technical responsibilities which belong to our respective Chiefs of Staff, or the advisory functions of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, but will provide a close and intimate contact to the political leaders whose responsibility it is in the final analysis to decide on matters of the highest policy with respect to defence preparation. A clear understanding and identity of views in regard to the safeguarding of our peoples on this continent will be thereby assured.

(3) Another important move has been the action taken towards arranging on an organized basis an exchange of visits and regular exchanges of views between the legislators of our countries.

I proposed in the House of Commons the establishment of such a Committee. United States Senators Aiken and Capehart and Representatives Brooks Hays and Coffin have recently visited Ottawa to further the establishment of such a Committee and the first of these meetings will take place in Washington in 1959.