

Canada, like many others in the United States and in Western Europe, decided that the only hope for immediate security and the only one likely prospect of preventing another world war lay in combining and in expanding the resources—military and economic and moral—of those nations which genuinely wanted peace, and which had potential strength either of population or resources to contribute to an effective combination for peace.

It was this growing centre of common interest which was the genesis of the North Atlantic alliance. The military aim of that partnership is to build up a force adequate to deter an aggressor from starting any D-day in the hope that D-day, like tomorrow, will never come. The United States is inevitably the dominant factor in that partnership. There could have been no North Atlantic alliance worthwhile without the leadership of this country. And I believe there could have been no North Atlantic alliance if American leadership had not been based upon a consistent and clear-sighted foreign policy which has been pursued steadily by the United States ever since the close of the war.

American participation in European affairs has been beneficial to the people of the world. American aid has been indispensable to the orderly survival of European society. We in America, on both sides of the border, find it hard to understand why some Europeans have not shown proper gratitude and appreciation of what you have done for Europe, and sometimes we wonder whether the effort has been worth what it has cost. But when we begin to talk about gratitude and appreciation for what you have done for Europe, I wonder if we North-Americans are being realistic. Of course we are glad that the effect of our external policies is helpful to other nations, but I think we might be honest enough to admit that the fundamental aim of our policies is to serve our own interests as North American nations. I believe the administration in Washington and our government at Ottawa—where we follow parallel lines—have conceived in those interests the long and right view.

The real justification for asking the taxpayers of the United States to provide loans and gifts, Marshall Aid and military support has been that all these things are necessary if your own people are to have any reasonable ground for hoping that they will not have to provide the infinitely greater cost of another world war. What we have done in Canada is inspired by the same justification. We are not trying to build up the economies and the military strength of the nations of Western Europe out of disinterested love for Englishmen, or Frenchmen or Dutchmen or Belgians or Italians, or any other of our allies. We are doing it for the safety and the future of Americans and Canadians who inhabit this North American continent. We want to help build up the strength of our friends and allies in Europe because all of us are in the same boat. We need each other.

Speaking as a Canadian, I can assure you that the great majority of my fellow-citizens have admired the single-minded resolution with which the Government of the United States, under the leadership of President Truman and General Marshall and Mr. Acheson, has pursued objectives in foreign policy which we believe are essential to the security of the North American way of life. We have admired, too, the non-partisan way in which the administration of your country has been supported in pursuing these general objectives by such distinguished Republicans as the late Senator Vandenberg, Governor Dewey and Mr. John Foster Dulles. We all know what the leadership of that most civilian-minded of soldiers, General Eisenhower, has meant in rallying the spirits as well as in leading the forces of the North Atlantic nations. While we might sometimes differ about tactics, the rest of the free nations cannot quarrel with the strategy of American leadership.

The importance of North America in the world today is not something which is transitory. It seems to me that it represents something of a permanent shift in the real balance of power in the world, something which may be expected to last for