

I believe that there are five basic objectives which the Government must seek if we are to remain truly independent:

- (1) We must have military security;
- (2) we must have expanding economic strength;
- (3) we must be able to exert influence on others;
- (4) we must be able and willing to play a creative role in many areas of international affairs; and
- (5) we must maintain a basic unity at home in Canada concerning our national interest in world affairs.

The Canadian Government believes that NATO defence arrangements, and the continental arrangements which fit logically into them, provide security, which is the basis of independence. It believes that these defence arrangements offer the partnership into which a sovereign state can enter without loss of national identity or independent viewpoint. For this reason, it has set a high priority on maintaining strength, stability and good political relations among allies.

I know that there are some Canadians who see in such arrangements only the political constraints of an alliance, only the possible dangers of undue political influence by larger members in the affairs of others. I wonder how seriously these critics have considered the overwhelming limitations on our independence and on our fruitful participation in world affairs which isolation, neutrality and military weakness would create.

There is no nation more subject to pressures, more dependent on the views of others or more uncertain of itself, than one with a precarious economy.

I have referred to growing economic strength rather than to current prosperity. We must consider the long-term needs of the country in developing our industry, in making better use of our resources, in increasing the population and in ensuring stable markets. Our experience has been similar to that of all the more economically advanced countries of the free world. A free movement of capital and of business experience and liberal conditions for trade and competition are among the best guarantees of sound economic development.

For Canada, of course, geography and economic facts make it inevitable that a large part of that capital should come from the United States and that a large part of our trade should be with that nation. In entering into agreements with the United States on the Columbia River, on automotive products and on many other matters affecting economic conditions, the Government has considered the long-term economic needs of the country.