

For the first time in history Europe and North America are bound together in time of peace. How different it is to the days before the First World War and after, when nations large and small tried to live unto themselves alone -- with tragic consequences.

Europe and North America are, of course, different in many ways. Our outlook is not always theirs. Our problems are often different from those of our European cousins. But we are intimately connected by the bonds of common tradition and cultural heritage. Canada's languages and customs are for the most part European in origin. The Canadian social and philosophical background is deeply rooted in European civilization. Canada has always been closely bound to the United Kingdom and France -- to the United Kingdom by the ties of the Crown, the heritage of freedom, by membership in the Commonwealth -- to France, as the origin of so many of her people, by the contribution she made to the building of Canada, and by cultural ties.

NATO is basic to the survival of freedom. It is more than a military alliance. It must develop and expand the economic principles inherent in the Treaty whereby each of the member nations "will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them".

The Atlantic Community has been dynamic and in constant growth. Canada as one of the member nations has opened its door to more than a million immigrants from Europe. It has assisted needy nations to repair the ravages of war. Indeed, since the communist blood purge in Hungary it has opened its doors to refugees from communist oppression in that country to a greater relative extent than has any other nation. This movement of peoples with their talents and skills has enriched Canada.

Our partners in Europe are stronger because of the assistance given them to rebuild and restore their societies. Canada has through immigration come to understand the points of view of the nations represented by the immigrants. Tens of thousands of Canadian servicemen and their families have spent two or more years on guard in Europe and have brought to their hosts an understanding of the life and point of view of Canada.

When I visited our partners in NATO and in the Commonwealth last fall, I had the pleasure of visiting our Canadian Brigade in Germany and our Air Division in France. I was proud to be a Canadian as I watched these men and women who are standing in the front line of the defence of liberty in Europe. I was both proud and pleased to learn of the happy relationships that have been developed with