

that we can afford to be complacent about it. We must never lose sight of the need to work with the less fortunate peoples of the world and to help them in their long struggle to free themselves from want and fear. Abraham Lincoln said in another context that his country could not endure, "half slave and half free". Our civilization cannot endure when more than half of mankind still lacks the means to free itself from the servitude of grinding poverty. One way or another, these peoples will continue to reach for their place in the sun, and there can surely be no question that it is to their advantage and to our own that they should be helped to find it without succumbing to the false and hollow attractions of the totalitarian way. My personal conviction is that a great -- perhaps the greatest -- factor in deciding their choice will be the proof that we ourselves can give that our way of life -- the free way -- works better than the totalitarian. Thus, from this point of view as well as all others, it is of vital importance that we should successfully and harmoniously solve the common economic problems of the free world.

I have spent some time in describing "Canada's network of international economic relations" and you may ask yourselves what purpose is served by this network; of what use are all these organizations and agreements and study groups, and plans? Any satisfactory answer must be in several parts. First, I must repeat that Canada's economic structure obliges us to look outwards. "It is necessary, at least in thought, to circumnavigate the world in order to see Canadian life and problems clearly" is the way a recent Royal Commission put it. As the world's fourth trading nation then, we have a special interest in the commitment to the world outside our boundaries. Secondly, it is true that for all countries, isolationism, either economic or political, is becoming less and less possible. If on one side, we have greatly increased inter-dependence on an international and world-wide scale, on the other hand, it is true -- and this is the third part of my answer -- that the responsibilities assumed by national governments of today for maintaining and assuring full employment and high living standards in their respective countries can create strong incentives to economic nationalism. No modern government can ignore this fact of life, even if it is committed by tradition to a philosophy of free enterprise. Given our world-wide inter-dependence therefore, and given the categorical imperatives to which the governments of today must respond, we come at the end to a justification for all these many conferences and committees, plans and agreements. The plain truth is that in the field of international economic relations we must either work together or accept the fact that we may well perish together. The Soviet Union could subjugate the world by driving the Western countries into bankruptcy.

As Minister for External Affairs, I am acutely aware that the trading relationships about which I have been speaking, and on which the prosperity of this country is