

Their work must reflect the basic drive characteristic of our century to define and eliminate the factors that make for armed conflict. They must continue the unremitting attempts to find conditions which could lead to the limitation or abolition of armaments. Canada has been a member of every disarmament conference since 1945. We have an advanced degree of knowledge in the nuclear field, which we have applied to peaceful uses. We have taken part in every major peacekeeping effort of the United Nations. We have done whatever one could to help the United Nations function in the security field in the way which the framers of the Charter intended.

The function of the diplomat today, however confronted with all the challenges which technology, economic aspirations, devastation of war and global interdependence present, is not perhaps so different in its ultimate political reality from its function in earlier periods. There is a very familiar sound to a statement of a diplomat employed by Louis XIV, François de Callières about the purposes of diplomacy.

"To understand the permanent use of diplomacy and the necessity for continual negotiations, we must think of the states of which Europe is composed as being joined together by all kinds of necessary commerce in such a way that they may be regarded as members of one Republic and that no considerable change can take place in any one of them without affecting the condition or disturbing the peace of all the others. The blunder of the smallest of sovereigns may indeed cast an apple of discord among all the greatest powers...."

De Callières did not presumably share our conviction -- or hope -- that basic conditions could be altered. But he did point to some considerations which have permanent validity, whether we are considering the older or newer dimensions of diplomacy.

"These actions and reactions between one state and another oblige the sagacious monarch and his ministers to maintain a continual process of