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THE UNITY OF THE FREE WORLD

Text of an address by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.D. Wilgress; delivered to the Annual Congregation of the University of British Columbia, May 19, 1953, at Vancouver, British Columbia.

... I have chosen as the title of my address "The Unity of the Free World". This is a fitting subject for an address by a member of the Canadian diplomatic service. There is nothing that is more important in the world to-day than that we of the Western world should remain united. It has been one of the aims of the Soviet Union to sow dissension among the countries that lie outside the orbit of Soviet power. We must constantly be on our guard against these efforts to bring about disunity in the free world. While we must be especially vigilant against efforts to separate the North American from the European members of the North Atlantic alliance, we must also take care to see that nothing is done to upset our relations with those other countries which are not bound to us by formal ties of alliance but whose interests, nonetheless, are inseparably bound up with those of the free world.

We do not have the kind of world we had hoped for when the young men of this country in their many thousands were going forth to fight the battles for freedom and democracy. At that time we spoke much about the ideal of "One World". It was with this ideal in mind that we gathered together at San Francisco in April 1945, to draw up the Charter of the United Nations. We were hoping that all the nations would co-operate together to assure the maintenance of both peace and prosperity. The lessons of the previous quarter of a century had demonstrated that peace and prosperity are indivisible. The world has become contracted and nations now must work together if we are to have peace and prosperity. If, because of the behaviour of the Soviet Union, we cannot have "One World", let us see that we can at least have only "Two Worlds".

Under the system of "Two Worlds", we of the free world can enjoy peace and prosperity under two conditions. The first condition is that we remain sufficiently strong to remove the fear of aggression. This is the purpose of the North Atlantic alliance. If we, who are parties to that alliance, are steadfast in our determination to build up our strength until it is sufficient to deter aggression, we will have achieved the purpose which was in our minds when we resorted to the right of collective self defence, provided for in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. In working towards this goal of real security, let us not lose sight of the other condition to a peaceful and prosperous free world under the "Two Worlds" system. That condition is the maintenance of the essential unity of the free world.