

Such a situation, of course, gives rise to problems and in the past has caused friction. There have been those in our national story who would have abandoned the building of a Canadian nation, in the face of these problems, and would have accepted a policy of division and drift.

There were others who preached the specious blessings and the political necessity of building on a single race a single culture and a single language.

Both extremes were rejected, and we have the Canadian federation of today strong and united, but with a strength and unity based on the recognition of separate rights.

Similar differences of viewpoint are present in the relations between nations.

There are those who cling to the old and barren doctrine of exclusive and competing national units; with the rights that flow from sovereignty as paramount. In the nuclear age, this concept is as anomalous and unrealistic as trial by ordeal or the divine right of kings.

There are those who go to the other extreme and argue that there is no hope short of world, or at least Atlantic Federation and immediately. In their impatience, these far-sighted idealists, sometimes make the best the enemy of the good as they try to master through a brittle political formula the tenacious problems posed by the relationship of independence and inter-dependence.

Then there are those who would unite the world by forcibly reducing all peoples to the servitude of a master race or a master ideology. The latest and most dangerous of the heresies which have sought to unite the world by forcibly imposing its doctrines on all mankind, is communism. It is devoutly to be hoped that we will not meet the challenge of inter-dependence by accepting this kind of unity, the deadly unity of the lock step and the jack boot, co-existence by compulsion.

If there is today a stronger conviction abroad that this will not happen, if there is today an easing of tension in the world, a lightening of the spirit and a greater hope for a better peace than we have known, it is largely because we who believe in freedom have in recent years shown our determination to defend it, and developed the collective strength and unity to make that determination effective. We must maintain this strength and unity. But even more we must make our own free way of life mean something positive and constructive, so that the challenge will not be to freedom and democracy from communism but to communism from free democracy. But we will never put the forces of communism on the defensive by keeping ideologically on the defensive ourselves. Because of our unity and strength - because also of the recognition on both sides of the Iron Curtain that the alternative to peaceful co-operation in the hydrogen age is common destruction, there have been indications recently that the aggressive forces of international communism backed by the might of Soviet Russia may be revising their ambitions and even recognizing some of their errors.