

and one feels that when he goes to her shores. I am of Anglo-Saxon descent, and yet when I went to Paris, in fact the minute I stepped off the plane, I felt that I was at home with members of the family. We were treated in just that way on both occasions that I had the privilege of visiting France. I repeat, so far as NATO is concerned, that in my judgement there certainly is no sign of any impending break-up. I hope there will be no more talk in Canada about possible break-up.

I should like to explain in a word or two the position of NATO in relation to European trade problems. This is not my field, of course; it comes under the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Finance. I had thought that NATO would be a forum for settling the difficulties about European trade, but when you remember that six of the NATO countries are in the Common Market--they are the Inner Six--and that only four of the European Free Trade Area known as the Outer Seven are in NATO, and that there are two from North America, Canada and the United States, and three, Greece, Turkey and Iceland, which are not in The Six or The Seven; and when you think that Sweden, Switzerland and Austria are not in NATO; when you look at this picture, you realize that NATO is not the place to work out the problems of trade in Europe. Hence the solution of these problems has been left to other organizations and including the possibility of a new organization being set up. Every one of the NATO countries is very anxious to do whatever it can to solve those difficult trading problems.

I should like to sum up what I have to say about NATO in these words. I believe it is remarkable that NATO has developed the way it has into a closely-knit and effective organization for collective defence and co-operation in many important non-military fields. Its strength derives in large measure from the freedom and independence which its members exercise and from the strong ties of history, culture and friendship, which the nations of Western Europe share with Canada and the United States. With this background, I believe we can be confident that any differences which arise out of the Alliance will be resolved, as they have in the past, in a spirit of friendship and mutual regard for each other's interests.

I go on to the Commonwealth. Canada's relations with each one of the other nine members of the Commonwealth are excellent. All 10 members value this membership very highly. Why should they not? As members of the Commonwealth, they have far more influence than any one of them could possibly have alone.

Another reason why they place great value on this membership is that today the Commonwealth is obviously the best bridge between the continents, playing a significant part in world affairs and of necessity working for peace. This Commonwealth of ours is so spread out around the world that it must work for peace. If there should be war the Commonwealth would be in far more trouble than the United States or the Soviet Union because, as I say, it is so scattered across the globe, and certainly everyone in the Commonwealth at the present time is working for peace.