

neighbour, the United States. Both visits can, I think, be judged outstanding successes. Indeed, I look upon your invitation to me to speak here this evening as evidence of renewed confidence and interest this side of the border in Canadian affairs.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Few aspects of Canadian external policy are more important today than our relations with the United States. None has been the target of more misunderstanding recently, and none has in fact been the cause of so much concern to thoughtful Canadians. The Canadian Government is well aware of the complexity and the difficulties which face us in problems of defence questions, trade and balance-of-payment matters, the Columbia River Treaty and many others. It is to be expected that our two countries would have differing interests in some of these matters. The differences in our foreign policies are natural and healthy. The task of the two governments is not to permit these differences to divide us, but rather to work together in harmony and in trust to seek equitable solutions.

The recent meeting between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Pearson in Hyannis Port served as a dramatic re-affirmation of the mutual trust and respect which exists between our two nations. The whole atmosphere of the meeting and the communiqué which followed it showed the determination of the heads of both governments to re-establish our historic relationship. I am quite certain that the meeting in Hyannis Port will take its place with other significant events, such as the meeting at Ogdensburg between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King in August 1940, as a historic landmark in Canadian-American relations.

As you know, the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council was held in Ottawa last week. I was particularly pleased that the meeting was held in Canada this year because of the early and very valuable opportunity it provided for me personally to meet and to hold wide-ranging discussions with the 14 foreign ministers of the alliance.

I am anticipating an early visit to Washington to continue discussions with Secretary Dean Rusk, with whom I had some most rewarding talks during the NATO meetings.

Review of NATC

NATO was born 15 years ago, when the intransigence of the Soviet Union had rendered the Security Council increasingly inoperative. NATO is a defensive alliance. It seeks to strengthen Western security and ultimately the cause of peace. Indeed, the very first line of the treaty affirms "our faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and our desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments."