

jaundiced view, one which would be fully understood by a country like the United Kingdom which has flourished and grown great by its commerce with all parts of the world.

We should, I think, favour European unity for another reason. Western Europe has great resources of wisdom, strength and energy which, along with its traditions of freedom and culture, qualify it to play a powerful and constructive part today in world affairs. It can play this part most effectively, if the area of united or at least closely coordinated political action is enlarged.

This enlargement therefore is something which, I think, we should encourage and support, without -- and I am talking now about North Americans -- being too insistent in our advice as to how it should be done, or becoming too impatient if it is not done overnight. After all, as Mr. Bulganin reminded us last week, 'Moscow was not built in a day'. I do not myself see anything in this move to European unity which should hinder in any way the growth and coming-together of the Atlantic community. Quite the contrary. Nor do I see anything necessarily inconsistent between the closest possible association of the United Kingdom with this European development, and the maintenance and even strengthening of its ties with the rest of the Commonwealth.

I appreciate, of course, that while this country is part of Europe - history provides grim as well as glorious reminders of that connection - it has also a wider destiny and wider interests. The world owes much - some states indeed owe their very existence - to the fact that the vision of the British people has ranged across the oceans as well as across the channel. I do not forget this debt when I express the hope that this country, so rich in political sagacity, so steeped in political experience, and which has provided Europe with imaginative leadership more than once in history, will play an active and constructive part in the efforts now being made by European states to adapt themselves to new conditions which require their closer association. Such a part would represent an important contribution to the development of something more important and far-reaching even than European unity itself - namely the Atlantic community.

I see in that community three essential parts: a North America which must not lapse into continentalism; a Europe whose free and democratic countries must achieve the greatest possible unity, both for defence and development and to ensure that no one of them will dominate the others; and finally, the United Kingdom, the bridge between the two, linked to Europe indissolubly by many ties and perhaps, above all, by the complete disappearance of the Channel in the