

Our defence links with the United States are closely related to our NATO commitments. Since we are looking back together over 25 years of Canadian and world affairs, we might recall another significant anniversary. On August 18 of this year, the Honorable Averell Harriman represented the United States Government and I represented the Canadian Government in a ceremony at Ogdensburg, New York, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the declaration on defence partnership between Canada and the United States made in that city by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King.

We made use of this occasion on behalf of our two governments to reaffirm the necessity of continuing to co-operate intimately in the defence of our continent within the broader framework provided by our joint membership in NATO.

These, then, are a few examples of our response to the first of those imperatives of foreign policy, that of securing regional security and reinforcing traditional associations.

It has always been clear to us, however, that we could never protect our own interests properly or help to obtain the type of international community we wanted if we limited our efforts substantially to the Atlantic, North American or Commonwealth areas or associations. The experience of the past pointed to the necessity of collective effort at a universal level in an increasingly inter-dependent world. The very associations I have mentioned logically demanded action on a wider scale, because ultimately none of their objectives can be met in any other way.

A little over two weeks ago, the Canadian Government set before the General Assembly of the United Nations what it considered to be the most urgent and important objectives of the organization in the current session. In communicating these views to the General Assembly in a speech on September 24, I pointed out that the Assembly had an opportunity, after a year and a half of frustration and inaction arising from a dispute over peace-keeping costs, to enter into a new period of creative action by dealing with the most challenging of the problems before it. I should like to emphasize again what these problems are.

It is our deep conviction that, although we would fight to defend ourselves, a new world war could mean the end of our civilization. For this reason, the prevention of war by deterrent force and by all the means of collective action or conciliation remains our highest duty. The war in Vietnam and the dangerous situation involving India and Pakistan are not only tragic in themselves but could initiate wider conflict.

The United Nations had to take urgent action to deal with the dispute between India and Pakistan and, in doing so, has had, as you know, the declared support and practical assistance of Canada. In the Vietnam conflict, we appealed to the Assembly to use whatever influence it had to bring about a negotiated settlement which would guarantee that the people concerned would be able to proceed, with the support and encouragement of the international community, to choose for themselves the path they wish to follow.