

cognized and in every respect what that definition implies. There is a great love for Her Majesty in Canada. Not only is there a respect for the institution of the monarchy but I must tell you in all sincerity that Her Majesty has brought to that traditional respect a widespread affection within our country, an awareness that our country, Canada, and the Commonwealth are exceedingly well led at the present time in the sense of Her Majesty's personal presence, that she has a comprehension and awareness that are serving all of us well in the troubled times in which we are living. I have no hesitation in saying to you that I cannot conceive of any development in my country, either constitutional or political, that would be likely to change, in any way that is important, the role of the monarchy and the great respect, affection and indeed love that we hold for Her Majesty. And so this, too, is something which brings us all together, which is a common kind of heritage and background that we possess.

There are very challenging days ahead for the world. Sometimes I despair that we will ever be able to keep up with them. I commented to my colleague Cyrus Vance last week that diplomacy has made about a 180-degree turn in the last number of years. Whereas it was the role of foreign ministers once to travel to those countries which were friendly in order to reaffirm those friendships, today it is almost necessary to lob a few shells into a country before you justify a visit by a foreign minister and it is always a firefighting kind of operation. It is regrettable, therefore, that I in my capacity do not always have the chance to get to all of the Commonwealth countries. I have managed to get to a good many, but I never miss a chance to return here to London, which is the fountainhead of the Commonwealth, and in a very real sense reflects today its vigour and its continuing importance.

And, if I take one more moment, I would hope that the British Government and the British people will continue to have the same keen awareness of the importance of the Commonwealth that I have described as being important to us in Canada. I, of course, would not presume, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, to tell Britishers what they ought to do or what their policies ought to be, but I think that as a member of the Commonwealth it is a legitimate comment for me to express the hope that the United Kingdom will not become so preoccupied with the events of Europe, so enmeshed in the new and unavoidable complexities of the world in which we are living, that the Commonwealth, of necessity, will have to take second place or play second fiddle. I realize full well – and who more than I, who must deal with the giant of the United States of America on a day-to-day basis – that Europe and your relationship with this part of the world are enormously important, but I do hope, as a Commonwealth member, that the United Kingdom can keep both strings to its bow. I believe that is possible. I believe that the United Kingdom can continue to enhance its relationship with the rest of Europe and at the same time can continue to work with us in a more vigorous partnership, and with the other members of the Commonwealth, to employ this unique instrument in the variety of ways that I – and I am sure you – see for it, in advancing the cause of peace and security in the world and the preservation and enhancement also of the principles which have brought us all here together today. Thank you very much indeed.

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