

Or consider the situation in the Middle East, which is so near to the hearts of many of you in this audience. Nowhere is there a better illustration of the fundamental and dangerous conflicts intensified by mutual distrust and suspicion that can exist between states and between peoples. Even the right to exist of the state of Israel has been challenged in the name of justice, notwithstanding its membership in the United Nations. These Arab-Israeli differences exist and somehow or other they must be resolved; otherwise peace cannot be secured in that troubled area.

Canada has actively supported the efforts of the United Nations to resolve this conflict, and has shared fully the burden of responsibility which has resulted from these efforts. Yet the problem - and the danger - is, if anything, greater than before. It is for this reason that we must continue to encourage the patient efforts of Ambassador Jarring, to which it is my hope that the current talks among the permanent members of the Security Council in New York will make a constructive contribution. In the meantime, we should hope that both sides would avoid statements and actions which could only inhibit and delay the achievement of a settlement.

The same is true of the East-West confrontation in Europe. There is little to be gained by deploring that confrontation. It rests upon a serious conflict of interest between states that has not been resolved. The existence of NATO and the Warsaw Pact is a symptom of that conflict, rather than a cause.

As I have said, conflict of interest is of the very essence of relations between states, as it is of relations between individuals and groups. The task confronting mankind is to find ways of resolving these conflicts. Without strife and without resort to the threat of violence.

It should not alarm us that there are conflicts of interest among Canadians. There are bound to be, and it is healthy that there should be because conflict can be a stimulus to constructive action. Conflict between union and management is often a stimulus to better working conditions and more efficient production. Conflict between political parties is often a stimulus to social advancement. The kinds of conflict that are futile and destructive and unnecessary are those that arise between white and coloured, between Jew and Christian, between Protestant and Catholic, between French- and English-speaking, conflicts founded on ignorance and prejudice.

Your association has dedicated itself to seek by educational means to promote justice, amity, co-operation and understanding among people differing in race, religion or nationality. I congratulate you for having recognized the key importance of education. Conflicts based on ignorance and prejudice are the most intractable, the hardest to resolve, and it is only by the slow, difficult but sure process of education that we can do this.