

THE COMMONWEALTH

"Canadians have a special pleasure, too, in welcoming Malaya, the newest member of the Commonwealth, as a member of the United Nations. Last year another member of the Commonwealth, Ghana, was elected to membership. We believe that the emergency of these new nations is an indication of growth and expansion of the concept of self-government and of the manner in which nations, one after another, attain independence but still remain members of that association of free nations which is known as the Commonwealth, which represents many different areas, colours and cultures, which has no rules or regulations and no constitution, which is a unity forged by the sharing of a heritage of common ideals and a love of freedom under law.

"Over the last years, hundreds of millions of people in Asia and Africa have achieved independence and sovereignty, for which the credit must go to the statesmen of the United Kingdom. It is incredible that the British should be described here on occasion as 'imperial and colonial masters', in view of this far-seeing policy which grants self-government so widely, and I am confident that our friends from Ghana and Malaya would be glad to invite comparison with what has happened to Hungary and to many other freedom-loving nations which have been subjugated by the U.S.S.R. in the past four decades.

RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

"But our membership in the Commonwealth, while fundamental to our destiny, does not detract in any way from the closeness and neighbourliness of our relationships with the United States. We are joined with our neighbours in the United States by what I have called before our 'built-in stabilizers' for unity, our traditional respect for the rights of man and our unswerving dedication to freedom. I think it is clearly established and is irrefutable that, if the United States was aggressive and sought territorial advantage and fomented war, as its enemies contend, Canada would not have maintained its existence as an independent nation.

NATO

"Then there is another phase of our policy - Canada's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which in our opinion constitutes a major bulwark against the forces of aggression and to which Canada will adhere regardless of threats, from whatever source they may emanate.

"If the notes delivered by the U.S.S.R. since July 4 to our friends in the Federal Republic of Germany, Turkey, the United Kingdom, France and Norway are indicative of any new trend in Soviet policy, then in our opinion there is more need today than ever before for the maintenance of the unity of NATO. The

repetition of spurious propaganda by the U.S.S.R. that the existence of NATO is a threat to world peace and that the existence of NATO is the reason why permanent peace has not been established is a travesty of reason. Canada wants peace, and if NATO had aggressive designs anywhere in the world, Canada would not remain a member of that organization. Believing as we do, we intend to continue to support it with all the power at our command.

DISARMAMENT

"...After nine years of stalemate after San Francisco, in 1954 Canada joined in co-sponsoring resolutions to get resolutions on disarmament before the Disarmament Commission of the United Nations. If that was necessary then, it is more necessary today, when the total amount being expended for war materials for defence, mobilization and manpower totals some \$85 billion per year.

"What mankind fears today more than anything else is that war will come about suddenly and precipitately, without warning and without there being any opportunity for defence. The whole question of surprise attack is of pre-eminent importance to people everywhere in the world. Until the Second World War took place, a surprise attack was almost impossible. No nation could conceal the mobilization of its forces, but today, when a nuclear attack could be mounted in a few hours and secrecy maintained until the atomic bombers appeared on the radar screens, the danger of a secret and surprise attack is one of the things that all mankind fears. And the danger of a secret and surprise attack has been multiplied with the potential development of the intercontinental ballistic missile....

"While it is only the great powers that can afford the vast expense to build these earth-spanning missiles, small nations are concerned. Canada is vitally concerned, for we are the closest neighbour of the United States and the U.S.S.R. Our strategic position in the world, embracing as it does the Arctic area in which Canada owns and exercises sovereignty over great areas, makes Canada one of the most vulnerable nations in any future war.

"I do not intend today to deal in any detail with the terms of the disarmament proposals that were put before the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission by the four Western powers, but I feel it well to refer for but a moment to the question of suspension of tests of nuclear and atomic weapons.

"The suspension as provided for in the Western proposals would be for a year, conditional on a convention on disarmament being entered into, and this would be renewable for a second year if satisfactory progress had been made towards a cessation of the production of nuclear weapons. But there are well-intentioned people -- many people -- who believe that a ban on atomic tests is a panacea for all the ills of mankind. In all the clam-