

Q. Mr. Pearson said that in the event of a major war it would be impossible for Canada to stand aloof if the United States was at war. Some people interpreted that to mean the United States can now count on Canada in an emergency and therefore you will not pay as much attention to any protest against American foreign policy you get from Ottawa.

A. It is decidedly not true. The extent to which our countries can count upon each other depends primarily upon whether or not we each conduct ourselves in a way which wins the moral approval and support of the other.

Then he went on:

"Now there are, to be sure, explicit engagements which are expressed in the North Atlantic Treaty. Aside from that, the question of whether we support each other depends on the judgment that each country has of the other. I would not expect that Canada would blindly support the United States and I suppose the Canadian people would not expect to count on the support of the United States if they should engage in a venture which alienated public opinion in the United States.

"It is highly unlikely that those contingencies will occur, because we do have the same ideals, and because we do keep in touch with each other. Common action depends, for its mainspring, upon what our declaration of independence calls 'a decent respect for the opinions of mankind'. That relationship makes it sure that each of our countries will seek and pay heed to the views of the other."

Mr. Dulles also had something interesting to say in reply to one other question at the same conference, and I quote:

Q. Mr. Secretary, in the present situation around Formosa and the offshore islands, if something should arise does the United States count on the support of Canada?

A. That is entirely a matter for the Canadians to decide for themselves. There are no treaty engagements of any kind other than perhaps the United Nations Charter which create any obligations on the part of Canada in relation to that part of the world. Therefore, we do not count on them in the sense that there is any obligation or undertaking. Naturally, we always hope and believe that our conduct will be such as to win the moral support and approval of other free nations, and particularly of the Canadian people.

While believing strongly in the view that the destinies of our two countries are intertwined in the way I have already indicated and as Mr. Dulles has indicated, as well as many others, I want to reaffirm my view that we could not stand aloof from a major war which threatened the very existence of the people of the United States; but I must add in all frankness that I do