

I do not want to overemphasize the seriousness of certain problems when we are still at an early stage in assessing them. I would hope that, even if a policy of full withdrawal from military integration is pursued by the French Government, means will be found to work out co-operative relationships between France and the organization in the defence field which will mitigate to some extent the effects of that withdrawal.

I do want to emphasize what I have said about continuing to develop our relations with France. I have questioned the reasons brought forward so far by the French Government in support of their decision concerning NATO's integrated structure. It is very important, however, that this decision and our views about it should be seen in the framework of our general relations with France and of our esteem for the President of France.

We must always remember that we have a debt of gratitude to General de Gaulle for his contribution to our victory during the last war. He was the soul, the personification, the symbol of resistance. It was thanks to him that at the end of the war France was in her rightful place, with her traditional allies.

We must remember also that, as very few men have been able to do during their lifetime, at another critical hour in the history of his country, General de Gaulle intervened in a decisive fashion to set France on the path of stability, confidence and pride.

General de Gaulle belongs to the Western civilization and to the Atlantic community. He has contributed in unique fashion to its strength. We can join with the French people in paying tribute to his great achievements.

The peoples of Canada and France are forever conscious of the fact that twice in as many generations they have gone through the trial of war together. The essential point perhaps here is not so much that side by side we met the supreme trial that countries can face but that we committed our very national existence to the defence of the same values. France and Canada stand for the independence of nations large and small alike and for the supremacy of the spiritual values embodied in the individual. No country in the world can claim, over the centuries, to have done more than France to promote these fundamental principles of our civilization. For this and other reasons, we cherish our association with France.

When we consider France's views on NATO integration, we can have our doubts as to their validity, tactical or otherwise, but we do not question France's dedication to the ideals which have been the inspiration of her life and which have provided the basis for the partnership between France and Canada.

In entering upon the negotiations with France which will define her new position in the alliance, we seek sensible and effective arrangements which will enable us to advance towards the goals which we both acknowledge and we are both anxious to serve. There will