

most directly concerned, but to the world at large. That world should not forget what it owes to the United Kingdom for originating and directing this process -- which, of course, has not been completed. I can assure you that Canada is happy about its position in the Commonwealth and has no desire to see that position weakened. To us it means independence to which something else has been added.

The Commonwealth has never been a static association. It has been able to adapt itself to changing conditions and thereby influence those conditions. In recent years its value has increased, and taken on a new significance, by the membership of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and by the steady move toward qualification for such membership of other Asian and African political groups.

In this way the Commonwealth provides a bridge -- at a time when there are all too few of them, and when they are desperately needed -- a bridge between Asia and the West.

Another impulse to international community development comes from the realization by contiguous nations, with shared political ideas and traditions and interests, that they would be much more adequately equipped to face the political and economic problems, and exploit the political and economic possibilities of today if they could remove the boundaries and barriers between them: in short, become integrated.

The contemporary illustration of this trend which first springs to mind is, of course, the move toward European unity. It is a move which must surely commend itself first of all to Europeans themselves, who must remember best how much their continent has suffered from disunity; more especially from the tragic feud over the centuries between Gaul and Teuton. The movement will also, I believe, be welcomed by non-Europeans of good will - this certainly includes Canadians - who see in it not merely the strengthening of the shield against aggression from the East, but also a more solid foundation for the prosperity and progress of the united peoples of Western Europe who are such a vital part of the Atlantic community. I hasten to add, however, that as a strong believer in the freest possible kind of international trade, Canada's approval of the economic aspects of European integration, without which I suppose the political could not take place, is given on the assumption that in this case the whole, while greater, could not be higher, more restrictive, than its parts. I am thinking of restrictions in the way of trade, of course, about which a country which exports as Canada does, about one-third of its gross national product takes a somewhat