

fabric has been tremendously strengthened by peoples from many other lands as well -- all of whom came here with a deeply ingrained love of freedom and with determination and initiative to succeed in the New World.

On my recent visit to France and Britain, it was perfectly obvious that the leaders of those two great countries were receiving me as a member of the family and not as a stranger. We must never underestimate the valuable asset we have in this easy and intimate relationship with two of the great world powers, from both of whom Canadian views will always receive the utmost attention.

Although we think and speak of them as "the old countries", I can assure you that they are young and new countries in their political and economic outlook. Both are enjoying an unprecedented prosperity, so well deserved after the sacrifices of two World Wars. Both are engaged in exciting and enlightened new political experiments in relation to their former colonial territories; the French, under the courageous and imaginative leadership of President de Gaulle, have founded a French community which bids fair to emulate the Commonwealth as a free and equal association of nations. To you yourselves who value so highly bonds of affection with the United Kingdom and represent loyalties which have meant so much in Canadian history, I do not need to elaborate on the far-sighted policy the United Kingdom Government is following in guiding its colonies into self-government and independence. This brings me to my second picture.

2. Our Membership in the Commonwealth.

We in Canada are sharing in this political evolution which has produced the Commonwealth of Nations. This is another association contributing to Canada's international strength today. Our Commonwealth is an association for which we have a deep sentimental attachment reinforced by the comradeship and common sacrifices made in two world wars. I, for one, never for a moment discount the value, in international affairs, of the very special fraternal quality that sets Commonwealth relations apart from the relationships with "foreign" countries, however close and friendly the ties with any such country may be.

But, of course, there is far more to this unique fraternity than mere sentiment. The Commonwealth is an entirely new concept embracing the belief that sovereignty, limited by a voluntary association with other sovereignties for the preservation of common values, is an acceptable, satisfying and civilized political order. It is, moreover, a dynamic concept with members being constantly admitted as they emerge from colonial to independent status. In 1957 we welcomed into the Commonwealth the Federation of Malaya.