

"Sooner or later", I am supposed to have said, "the annexation of Canada to the United States will take place /incidentally, if the United States acted like the U.S.S.R., it would have taken place long ago. / The wish to oppose this inevitable fact would be unreasonable."

Pravda had a nice convincing explanation for this annexationist attitude on my part:

"Pearson began his career in one of the leading American concerns for the production of weapons, 'Armour & Co.', and up to now remains a participant in this enterprise."

There are times when I wish I were!

Though no American "agent", like nearly all Canadians I have a deep feeling of affection, admiration and respect for the American people.

We in Canada know you better than others do. We live as you do, react in the same way and even talk as you do. That is one reason why we speak our minds frankly on occasions when we disagree with you, without risk of being misunderstood. In fact, our differences - when we have them - take on almost a domestic character.

We also realize that without the power and leadership of the United States, the dark shadow of Communist aggression might by now have enveloped the world. That is only one reason why we support, whenever we possibly can, United States policies on international affairs. That support would, however, not mean much if we had the reputation among other states of being merely your "yes-man", an automatic echo of someone else. The fact that we occasionally disagree, and express our disagreement frankly, does, I think, make our support, free and voluntary, all the more valuable.

There is something else. Because we are so close to you, and know you so well, we are not so likely as others to be misled or confused by the controversial clamour, the sensational headlines, the frothier manifestations of American life. It is unfortunately true that much of the news from the United States in the foreign press (and the Communists are gleeful about this) gives a distorted picture of the nature and the character of this country and of its policies.

Canadians, therefore, can on occasions, as North Americans and as representing a smaller country living in peace and friendship alongside the most powerful state in the world, do something to correct wrong impressions abroad of this country. It is an extension of the rôle of interpreter or link between the United States and the United Kingdom which is often supposed to be ours.

Our Prime Minister, for instance, who has been visiting Asia, had this to say of the United States to the Parliament of India a few weeks ago:

"Whatever those of us who do not bear the arduous responsibility of this rôle (world responsibility) may think from time to time of particular proposals, we Canadians are thankful that, both through experience and by instinct, the United States and its people are devoted to peace and freedom for themselves and for all others. As their close neighbours, we have special