

If we examine - as we should - how best we may today participate in international affairs (and I can only touch on one or two aspects of such participation), we should not be unduly influenced by the post-war experience we have had, most of which is highly creditable to ourselves but which was determined by conditions which have changed and are changing, and in which we worked through international organizations which now have to be adapted to these world changes.

I think of the Commonwealth, of NATO, of the United Nations, and, of course, of this continent where Canada-U.S. relations, so vitally important to us, have of themselves built up a series of organizational arrangements, ranging from formal ministerial or official committees to direct personal contacts, by meeting and more frequently by telephone. I may add that the lines are open, the talk is friendly and the problems are many and difficult.

One factor in our foreign relations is unchanging, however, in a changing world - the importance to us of international trade and investment.

By any standards, Canada is one of the world's greatest trading nations. Our interest in expanding world trade - and we are showing it in a very practical way at Geneva at this moment - is based not only on material self-interest (no country depends more on trade than we do for prosperity); it is also a measure of our belief in the neighbourhood of all men and all nations.

We should be very foolish indeed if we managed our own financial and economic affairs in a way to prejudice our good relations with our trading friends.

The first of the international groupings through which our foreign policies operate is the Commonwealth of Nations. This now bears about as much relation to the British Commonwealth that existed when I first entered External Affairs in 1928 as the life I led then does to the life I lead now!

The little group of white graduates from colonial status sitting around the fireplace at 10 Downing Street at periodic clubby meetings and listening to the old headmaster discuss the imperial burden and how the youngsters should now appreciate the privilege of sharing it - this has been replaced by 21 prime ministers seated formally around a conference table, all but four (at the most recent meeting) from Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean or the Caribbean. As an old-school-tie bond, terms at Oxford or Cambridge now have to yield precedence to a term in one of Her Majesty's penal institutions, for disaffection.

At its last meeting of prime ministers, this new Commonwealth decided to establish a central Secretariat. Such proposals have been made before. They had always been rejected by Canada - particularly by Mr. Mackenzie King - as establishing machinery for imperial centralization which would