

another of all our North Atlantic partners - and, of course, in many other lands too. These others have come to join their strength to ours in the creation of a free society in which all Canadians can live and work together. In fact, as in aspiration, we in Canada have given credibility to the central conception of our Atlantic Alliance; a belief in word and in deed in the interdependence of co-operating peoples.

Today it is easy and understandable to point with anxiety to centrifugal tendencies in NATO. But, in spite of this and other difficulties, our defensive Alliance has succeeded in deterring aggression and promoting security. But to survive - this has been said so many times - NATO must comprehend much more than military defence, central as that undoubtedly is to our joint effort. It must include the closest possible unity of purpose in the solution of political, economic and social problems of concern to us all. If it does not, NATO will weaken and eventually disappear.

NATO must also press ahead with efforts through co-operative action to raise the levels of economic and social well-being, not only of the Treaty countries alone but also of the countries in less fortunate areas in the world.

It must give the lead in working toward the time when all men will recognize in their hearts and be guided in their actions by the noble principles of the United Nations Charter.

The wealth of promise now open for all mankind will never be realized unless nations come to accept the fact of their interdependence and act on that fact.

The degree and complexity of this interdependence is a distinctive characteristic of our era. It could have no similar meaning for the relatively uncomplicated conditions of former times. The science and technology of a few years have brought the multiple interests of each nation into a maze of interlocking contacts with those of other nations. This is a central and compelling factor of our time.

Today the world has the means of adapting itself to this essential factor by international co-operative effort. It is the only means that makes sense, but that does not prevent us from too often following the older techniques of exclusive national action.

Since we last met in Canada in 1951, new institutions have been developed within the framework of our Organization. In a new complex of working bodies, many important facets of our separate national activities have come to be explored on a continuing collective basis. Meanwhile, too, a devoted and talented international staff has been built up under a distinguished Secretary-General and performs invaluable service in the study of cultural, scientific, economic, military and political matters.