

*Supply—External Affairs*

the ideological conflict between east and west or from the upheavals which have been engendered by the surge toward independence and higher living standards of former colonial and underdeveloped peoples. In our pursuit of these objectives we aim to maintain a balanced, realistic and co-operative outlook on international affairs, avoiding excesses of optimism, pursuing policies commensurate with our capabilities, and ensuring that Canada speaks with a reasonable and constructive voice in international councils.

Sir, I have dealt at length with relations with the communist part of the world and with the less developed areas, because those are the dominant forces in contemporary international life, affecting directly the scope for Canadian initiative in international affairs. I have outlined what I believe to be some of the ways in which we can work toward a further relaxation of tension. But I do not wish to exaggerate the possibilities. We are far from the point where we can relax our vigilance. There is no evidence as yet that the decrease in international tension which has begun will prove so durable that the dismantling of our defences would be warranted. We must recognize that the collective security arrangements, which we have developed within the north Atlantic alliance, by their very effectiveness have been a major factor in bringing about the more hopeful atmosphere which prevails today. NATO, which embraces our major military efforts in both Europe and North America, remains one of the main cornerstones on which Canadian foreign policy rests and must rest, not only in our preparations to defend ourselves if the need to do so should be thrust upon us but also in our approach to an era of peace, if that should materialize; and on this question I think the latter is the more likely consequence and result.

It is important to recognize in this connection that NATO is not just a military alliance but an assembly of nations with common ideals and a high identity of purpose, in peace and in war. Since the competition between the communist and democratic worlds will certainly continue, even if war is abandoned by communism as an instrument of policy, all members of the western world will be faced with the same problems of how best to respond. Thanks to the habit of consultation which has been developed over the years, the organization today is well equipped to become a central forum for co-ordination of western policies in the more hopeful period that may lie ahead. The forthcoming ministerial meeting of NATO in December, which some of my colleagues and I will attend, will be of great importance in exchanging views and charting a common course.

That meeting will also be significant in another sense. As a consequence of the re-emergence of Europe as a major world power centre, certain changes in relationships are taking place within the alliance. This development is itself in large measure the product of enlightened policies consistently pursued through the post-war period. It is inconceivable to me that in the moment of success of policies so deliberately pursued, there should be a fear to accept the consequential change in trans-Atlantic relationship that inevitably had to ensue.

There is no cause for concern in the evolutionary process taking place in the west. To be sure, certain problems have been introduced into the relationship within the western family of nations, but I stress that these problems can and will be resolved without undermining the fundamental cohesion of the western alliance, and certainly without harmful consequences to any outside nation.

So, sir, I conclude this statement on Canadian foreign policy as I see it at the present time, a policy that is predicated upon certain constants, membership in the commonwealth, membership in the United Nations, membership in NATO, our traditional and cultural affinity with France, one of the great and strong nations of the world and one of the strong powers in Europe today. I dedicate the efforts of this government anew to the twin objectives of promoting the Atlantic partnership while working unremittingly for international peace and stability.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, my first words must be of congratulation to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for the manner in which he has dealt in a general way with the problems facing Canada internationally. He has an amplitude and felicity of phrase that makes it difficult on occasion to follow his exact meaning, but I will say that the views he has expressed today, and in particular the general summation he has made, will cause no serious division as between those in the government and those in opposition. However, that does not mean I feel he has covered the subject as recent events would have demanded.

When he dealt with the question of the recognition of China I thought he was going to make a profound declaration, but by the time he had completed his remarks in that connection he had gone no further than the government of which he was a member seven or eight years ago. He did, however, deal with the question of the problem that has to be faced. I am not applying this in any way to the question of the recognition of China; I realize the difficulties inherent in so doing. I believe that the free world made a mistake 12 years ago, when it was purely a legalistic