

It is not easy for a middle power, such as Canada, with a special relationship of friendship and interest with countries like the United Kingdom and the United States, to know when to give up a national position in the interests of harmony in the group, or when to stand firm. It requires a nice, but often a difficult balancing of advantages and disadvantages.

Canadian policy, for instance, must be national in formulation and execution, but it can never, or at least should never, be isolationist or exclusive. It must, of course, as I have said, protect Canadian interests, but the greatest Canadian interest, in this thermo-nuclear age, is peace. And we know that there can be no guarantee of peace through national policy, or no safe refuge from danger in national isolation.

There may be times - I hope they will be few - when, as a free and self-reliant nation, we will have to go our own way irrespective of what our closest friends do. But that must be only after we have done everything possible to avoid such a course. That is my concept of Canadian nationalism in foreign policy. It does not include being sensitive about charges of colonialism when we are in full accord with Downing Street, as we so very often are; or about allegations of being a satellite of the United States when we are in agreement with American decisions.

I return, once again, however, to that essential purpose of Canadian policy: the promotion by every means within its power accord between London and Washington. To anyone subjected to the day-by-day problems of Canada's international relations, as I am, it seems almost impossible to over-emphasize the importance of this. It means a fuller understanding of each other's point of view across the Atlantic. It means, perhaps, if not less reliance on Magna Charta and Shakespeare and our common heritage, at least far more reliance on the cold, hard facts of self-interest and security. The United States and the United Kingdom need each other; need to count on each other; need each other's support in a dangerous world, more than they need anything else. And Canada needs them both.

Perhaps this essential understanding, based more on realities than sentimentalities, would be easier to achieve if the British could always remember and respect the vast burden of world-wide responsibility now being borne by the United States; not sought by her but accepted generously and carried gallantly; before, perhaps, the United States was ready to receive it.

It would help also if Americans could remember - there is certainly less chance of Canadians forgetting it - that the British have carried this burden for generations to the benefit of humanity, and that in the process they have saved freedom