

- (1) National unity
- (2) International trade
- (3) Canadian geography and population.

I should like to speak briefly on each of these three points in turn.

(1) Canadian unity and international affairs

It is, I suppose, axiomatic that no nation can embark upon foreign policies which do not receive the acceptance of the great majority of its people. This acceptance, of course, can be given under many degrees of compulsion in countries where democratic freedoms are limited or even non-existent. Our Canadian community, partly as a consequence of the last war, has become increasingly well-knit and we are proceeding with some success towards the development of a genuine Canadian community spirit, without, we hope, falling into the errors of excessive nationalism. We are fortunate, too, in having in Canada an unusually stable government.

But in spite of these two factors it must not be assumed that the Government of Canada could advocate or embark upon foreign policies which were not acceptable to the great majority of the Canadian people. Indeed, for many years before this last war the guiding principle in the formulation of our foreign policy was the maintenance of the unity of Canada as a nation. For example, at the time of the Rhineland crisis in 1936, the then Prime Minister said: "I believe that Canada's first duty to the League and to the British Empire with respect to all great issues that come up is, if possible, to keep this country united".

Although, as I have indicated, we have developed in our attitudes on matters of foreign policy from those which we held in the 20's and in the 30's, it would be very wrong to judge that this fundamental policy has become entirely obsolete. If it is true that since the war we in Canada have been able to adopt a more positive policy in international affairs and to accept earnestly and seriously the grave commitments which we have undertaken, this has been due, in large measure, to the fact that we are now a much more united people than we were 20 years ago and that we have received during the recent war and its aftermath a stiff post-graduate course in international affairs.

In consequence, most Canadians now agree that the factors in Canadian life which tend to separate us, and which in themselves stem from genuine and honest differences of opinion, cannot be allowed to so separate us in Canada that we could take no effective action if our own country and the free world were threatened by forces seeking to destroy all that we consider essential to our civilization.

In Canada we have developed, as indeed you have and also others of our allies, a bi-partisan or rather a non-partisan attitude towards international affairs, apart from the voices of a very small minority -- and such a minority is always characteristic of a democracy in good working order. But we cannot take our national unity for granted, nor could any Canadian government venture upon