

An anxious and grateful world has watched with admiration as this great Republic has maturely accepted heavy global responsibilities in keeping with its present position of power and leadership. In recognition of its role of responsibility, the United States had undertaken far-reaching international obligations and commitments that are unprecedented in its history and that have been accepted for no other purpose than to safeguard freedom and to protect the peace of the world.

I took occasion last Fall in the Political Committee of the United Nations to make this very point when I said:

"As friends and neighbours, Canadians have long known that the United States is dedicated to peace, and that the true portrait of her motives and actions bears no resemblance to the shop-worn caricature."

I am sure that all the nations of the Americas recognize the role of the United States in the defensive alliance of the free world as a potent contribution to the security and solidarity we seek.

Canada, too, because of its unique position, is able and willing to make its own characteristic contribution to hemispheric solidarity. In addition to our close relations with the United States, Canada has deep cultural and political ties with the United Kingdom and France and, in peace and war, our nation has provided a "useful northern bridge across the Atlantic between the new world and the old." And because of the racial composition of our country I think it can be said that we have a certain spiritual affinity with the Latin peoples of America.

Geographically, of course, Canada is closer to Europe than to many of our Latin American friends but good neighbourliness has a way of overcoming the barriers of distance. As a result, our political and commercial relations with Latin-American countries, always cordial, have become much closer in recent years. As recently as 1939, Canada did not have a single diplomatic mission anywhere south of the Rio Grande. Today, there are Canadian diplomatic representatives in no less than eleven Latin American countries. Nothing could indicate more tellingly the increasing importance we attach to our relations with the republics of Latin America.

In addition, there has been a remarkable growth in our trade with one another, which has now reached a total annual volume of nearly \$500,000,000. Of course, the United States is still Canada's biggest market and Canada is still the best customer of the United States with the result that there now flows across our border a greater volume of trade than has ever before been established between any two nations.

Nevertheless, during the post-war years Canadian trade with Latin America has accounted for a much larger percentage of our total trade than in any previous period. Our continuing need for foodstuffs and other materials produced in Latin America together with the rapid industrial development of Latin America