each of us realize our own true national individuality by searching out In our politics the sword play of ideas, real intellectual debate, first what is good and only secondly inquiring into its origin. has been a luxury that we have often had to do without, if we were going If I had to sum up the lesson of the Canadian experience -- in living to hold together at all. Our loose federal constitutional structure, with with ourselves, in living with the Americans, in adapting to our needs our immense reserves of power vested in the provinces, has made it very European inheritance and in responding to the demands of a northern en difficult to tackle many new problems; I refer particularly to those which vironment, I should put it like this: the life of a nation like that of an come from rapid industrialization, problems which are national in scope, individual, is not something to be lived in the innocent and happy illusion but provincial in constitutional terms. The province of Quebec, in particular, represents not just one of ten local governments. It stands, with the to be endured on a basis of reality. The big problems are not ones which strong emotion of conviction in the minds of French-speaking Canadians, can really ever be settled and "fixed" by some magic formula, some act of as the symbol of French culture in North America. It has taken the Englishrevolution, some political system. They are the problems we must teach ou speaking majority many generations to accept that fact -- not grudgingly or selves to live with, just as all peoples, for the first time in human histo indifferently but proudly as a mark of the rich variety of our national life. are now simply forced to learn to live with one another, if we are to survive

Lastly, we can never forget that always, with all our compromises at all. So perhaps at last the lesson of the Canadian experiment has become and frustrations as a small country in everything but geography, we have relevant not just for ourselves but for others. Canadians have had to outgrov to live next door to the most powerful nation on earth. As a result of this, first, a pro-French or pro-British colonial attitude, a mixture of pride and One Canadian has ventured to say with more humour than accuracy that we subservience, and then later, a tough nationalist assertiveness. But our are a people bounded on one side by the northern lights and on the other by experience has meant, at its best, these past three centuries and more, son an inferiority complex just as vivid. The vast influence of American culture thing deeper than either the obverse or the reverse of the colonial mentality. is now beginning to reach all of you as strongly as it has affected us for many It has created "a common psychology of endurance and survival", an ability generations. Like us you recognize the success and the ability of the Amerito accept compromise and illogical variety, and even at times a sense of cans at so many things and their generosity and good will. Canadians are inferiority or defeat, and, in the end, to transcend them. sometimes critical of their neighbours. But if we would only admit it, each Just as I think this country because of its experience has a role to of us in our own way possesses some unattractive habits and traits. What play in the world community, so has the family of nations to which we below is important is to acknowledge and accept gladly and without jealousy, the The question of whether the existence of the Commonwealth has much bearing best things into our own lives from wherever they come. In the end we can on the great matters of war and peace has often been asked. I do not intend