

If we cannot at present achieve a pattern of Atlantic federalism, it may be necessary to acknowledge the realities of the situation and, as North Americans, work with Europeans in the hope that, in the longer sweep of history, both European and North American will come to realize that their respective affairs can best be harmonized in a wider union. If an intervening European stage is necessary, however, it must be taken not in continental isolation but in close Atlantic co-operation and understanding.

As I try to grope my own way towards a conception that would make sense for North America, and for both Western and even Eastern Europe, I am convinced that we cannot insist on retaining NATO in its present form as the only foundation for building a more genuinely international structure more appropriate for the future. I am equally sure that continentalism, either of the European or North American variety, is not the answer.

Finally, I believe that only the United States can give the effective lead required for Atlantic unity. Without its active participation and support, nothing can be done -- at least on the broad front which is essential. Without its leadership, we shall be driven back to a national or continental solution for the organization of security and for progress.

So we in other countries should be heartened by the fact that 111 senators and congressmen, from 34 states and from both parties, have co-sponsored or supported the resolution on Atlantic unity -- along with ex-presidents, former presidential candidates and governors. The list includes two names that mean much to all free citizens throughout the world -- President Truman and President Eisenhower.

With this kind of backing, with this kind of understanding and vision, who dares not take this initiative seriously?

Years ago, before the North Atlantic Treaty or the United Nations Charter, even before the United States or Canada had ever been heard of, when the Sioux and the Blood Indians hunted over the western prairies, their young men, on coming of age, would retire alone to some hill or mountain. There, in solitude, fasting, watching, they would seek before entering on their adult years to look at themselves with the best that was in them, to purify their thought and their feeling, and to seek the guideposts they would try to live by as men. This solitary vigil they called "crying for a vision". Now, more than ever before, we need as individuals, as nations, to "cry for a vision", and then, with devotion and persistence, to strive for its realization. It is a tribute to the peoples who live on both sides of the Atlantic that, at critical times in their history, they have always rallied to a great and challenging cause once they were convinced that this was the right and necessary thing to do.

Tonight I pay my humble tribute to those good and brave men (some are present here tonight) who have this conviction and who are working with single-minded dedication to lay the foundation of policy and action looking toward a union of peoples for peace and freedom.