

We have intensive trade relations with Germany. We are co-operating in the fields of atomic energy, taxation and civil aviation. Believing that the preservation of human freedom—I know that the members of Parliament have the same view, and that you share that view—transcends all other considerations, Canadians intend to nurture that spirit of good will with all like-minded nations. We reaffirm our belief in and support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a defensive organization dedicated to peace and with no offensive objectives. I wish to make it clear that whatever threats may be made against those nations which believe in the mission of NATO and the necessity for its continuance, Canada will maintain forces in Europe as long as international disquiet and justifiable fears require Canadian participation.

My hope is that if the Western world will maintain its unity of purpose and will not weary in its pursuit of peace with freedom, however uncertain and hesitant the steps to that objective may appear to be, that peace with justice under law will have been achieved.

It is in that spirit, sir, that I welcome you to the Parliament of Canada in this chamber with representatives of the Senate and the House of Commons present. We welcome you for the stands you have taken since assumption of the presidency of Germany in 1949, for that spirit of understanding and co-operation which has characterized your state. It is in that spirit that I welcome President Theodor Heuss, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and now ask him to speak.

Professor Dr. Theodor Heuss (President of the Federal Republic of Germany): Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Honourable Members of the Senate and Members of the House of Commons: Permit me first to express my thanks to the Canadian people on my visit to Canada. I wish them to understand that my ability to speak English or French is not indicative of the depth of my feelings. I am sorry that I have not had practice in speaking foreign languages, either English or French, and I must ask your indulgence to permit me to speak to you in German. Permettez-moi de continuer en allemand.

(Translation)

I thank His Excellency, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, Governor General of Canada, and the Canadian Government for their kind invitation to visit Canada.

I have asked the Governor General to convey my greetings to your Queen, Her Majesty Elizabeth II, and tell her how happy

I am to become acquainted with this important and beautiful country and member of her commonwealth.

I hold it a great honour to be permitted to speak in this illustrious house, which is at once a home and a model of the democratic spirit.

My words are at the same time addressed to the people of Canada, to whom I wish to extend cordial greetings from the German people. May I accompany these greetings by my sincere thanks for the friendly reception accorded me everywhere since my arrival in this great country.

Throughout the centuries preceding our own, which has brought such tragedy to the peoples of the world, relations between Germany, whatever her form of government, and Canada were of a peaceful nature.

Then followed the two world wars, the first brought about by political misunderstanding and ineptitude, the second by evil and arrogant worship of power.

We cannot ignore these historical events which claimed so many victims and caused so much bloodshed. I still remember the war memorial honouring the Canadian soldiers who fell in Northern France in 1917 and 1918.

Out of these many battles there emerged mutual respect for soldierly gallantry, and then the understanding that it would be better to live with one another, yes! for one another! For it must not be forgotten that we have the same spiritual heritage and a great deal in common both intellectually and culturally.

Alas! Our generation knows all too well that campaigns and wars may have been brought to a victorious conclusion, but that peace has not yet been won.

The fear lurking in the souls of many nations is the result of political or military decisions still prompted by old wartime passions and worries.

We in Germany have many reasons to be grateful to the Canadian Government and the people of Canada for their early and unwavering understanding.

We appreciate what it means for Canada to maintain soldiers on German soil, to afford an opportunity to young German pilots to familiarize themselves with the constantly developing aircraft techniques, and to recognize and support the German people's demand for reunification by peaceful, democratic means.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which both our countries and peoples are loyal members, is the political expression of mutual solidarity.

Due to the times we live in, this Treaty at first had military and even strategic aspects. But it is growing out of that stage,