

plexing forms. They constitute a challenge to both countries. It will be easier on our part to meet that challenge successfully — as we must—if we keep a sense of proportion; avoiding excessive touchiness or assertiveness; if we show ourselves to be not only alert but also nationally mature.

We are not, of course, a mere economic or political extension of any other state. We stand firmly on our national feet and we must stand up for our own national interests. When these interests are endangered by the policies and practices of any other country, however friendly, we must speak out and, if necessary, act. The record shows that we are not afraid to do this. Other countries—especially the United States—would not have much respect for us otherwise.

There is a tradition of forthright but friendly exchange of views across our border, which is uniquely valuable. We do not want to lose it. That loss, however, could be brought about from abuse by exaggeration or over-indulgence, on the one hand, or by super-sensitiveness or morbid suspicion on the other. We should guard against both.

Increasing Importance

This increasing importance of Canada and the United States to each other is two-fold. Not only is our relationship in a bilateral sense of great and growing significance, there is also the fact that the United States through its power and resources is the country best equipped to give political leadership to the Western world, which includes Canada, in the search for peace and security against aggressive communism. Canada, therefore, and the other members of the coalition, have an obligation in their own interest not to act without considering the major responsibilities for collective security now being borne by the United States.

This realization that we must stand together or fall separately explains why today in our defence policies we do not, indeed cannot, rely on national action alone, which would be totally inadequate, but on collective arrangements, especially through NATO.

Among other things, this means that our continent, which is one great sector of the NATO area, must be treated as a single zone for defence, and that Canada and the United States must co-operate closely in that zone for their common protection. It means also that Canadians have no more right to be cool and suspicious when that co-operation brings American soldiers or American instal-

lations to Canada, than would be the case when it brings Canadians to France or Germany.

In other days, and under other conditions, we would have assumed complete responsibility for the building, manning, operating and maintenance of every defence facility in Canada. But now that defence installations on our territory protect both countries, the cost and the responsibility is shared by both governments. This is the right and proper course, especially in view of the magnitude of the requirements for continental defence. In the circumstances, the policy we have adopted is, I think the right one. There is full consultation with the United States on all aspects of collective defence, especially continental defence. It is accepted without question that no non-Canadian activity on Canadian soil in connection with such defence shall take place without the agreement of the Canadian Government. Before giving such agreement, we must be convinced that the activity in question is necessary.

Canada accepts responsibility for as much of this continental defence work on Canadian soil as it can undertake, having regard to our other defence commitments. That which we cannot do ourselves—and which we agree should be done in the common interest — is either a joint effort or is done by the United States alone. Furthermore, in every defence arrangement that we have made with our neighbour, and which involves American activity on Canadian soil—this is very important—Canadian rights and Canadian sovereignty are fully preserved.

Defence Co-operation

Surely we should welcome whole-heartedly, as something in our own as well as the general interest, United States defence co-operation on such a basis. This being the case, it is no service to good relations and friendship between our countries, or to peace and security generally, to whisper or insinuate that every time the Stars and Stripes flies with the Canadian flag at some Arctic base, this is a further step in the United States conquest of our country. "Canada, we stand on guard for thee", is something to act on—as well as to sing about. But it doesn't mean that we have to declare war when an American soldier stands guard over his crashed plane on Canadian soil.

The sudden flare-up of this ancient fear that we are about to become "the 50th state of the Union" may have been encouraged by