

This reassessment has confirmed, if this needed to be confirmed, that above all our foreign policy must be Canadian, based on Canadian considerations, Canadian values and Canadian interest, the greatest of which, apart from freedom itself, is peace. But a Canadian policy in this day and age is not necessarily an independent policy. Indeed, no country in the world today, even the most powerful, in the preservation of peace and security, can run the risk of a policy of independence in foreign affairs, in the sense that independence means isolation from one's friends or immunity from the effect of their decisions and their actions.

We have also again been struck by the "parallel" and interdependent importance of the United Nations and NATO. The United Nations is important, very important, and we do not think we could do without it. The hopes and aspirations which we felt in San Francisco in 1945 have not therefore really diminished, and the United Nations continues to be an essential element of Canadian foreign policy. At the same time, we have recognized that, as long as it remains an imperfect instrument for peace, especially as long as there is a "double standard" among its membership with respect to compliance in its resolutions, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must be, as a deterrent and a shield against aggression. The Atlantic Alliance therefore remains the effective basis of our policy of collective security, and will remain so until the United Nations can discharge that responsibility effectively.

This reassessment has further brought out that the unity, cohesion and strength of NATO depend primarily upon the closest possible cooperation between the United States, the United Kingdom and France. There are of course no second-class powers in our Alliance, but I believe we all agree that this triangular relationship to which I have referred is simply a realistic recognition that the United States, the United Kingdom and France are to a very great extent, the heart and soul and much of the muscle of the Atlantic community. It is logical therefore that one of the objectives of Canadian foreign policy is the maintenance and strengthening of the good relationship between these three countries, especially since, in a sense, we are a part of every side of the triangle.

The United States shares with us the North American continent and we are linked with her by ties of friendship and neighbourliness of geography, trade and self-interest. Our ties with Great Britain and France have a very special character evolving from history and tradition and race. We have with them a family relationship of a kind which is easy to feel but hard to describe. You will realize then how strongly we in Canada feel about cooperation between the three great Western Powers in and out of NATO.