

With pride in our development, with confidence in our future, with satisfaction in the position we have achieved in the world, pessimism of the kind which sees Canada falling under the grasping domination of any other country is both unrealistic and dangerous. After 1867, the weak and struggling Canadian federation, in many respects still a colony, with its very existence as a state uncertain, did not allow sterling from London to prevent it becoming a united strong and free nation; indeed, used that sterling, to help bring it about. Who then would dare to suggest that the Canada of 1956, a strong and self-reliant member of the family of nations, and recognized as such, is going to be submerged by the "Yankee dollar"?

Today, in many important respects, the Western nations, and especially those in the North Atlantic community, are more dependent on one another than they were before the threat of communist aggression led them into closer association, both economic and political. We need not be frightened of that development. In the small atomic world of today this move toward co-operative interdependence is to be welcomed rather than feared; is beneficial rather than harmful. This closer association, however, should not be confused with the loss of our political freedom. The destiny of the Canadian nation will not be blocked because Canada co-operates closely with her neighbour in continental defence, and because United States corporations operating under Canadian law, subject to Canadian policies, and behaving much like Canadian corporations, are playing an important part in our development.

I end, therefore, on a note of optimism, based on the story of Canada's past, nourished by the evidence of its present and to be justified, I am confident, by the achievements of the future.

I make no apology for this optimism and to those who reject it, I would merely point out that if it weren't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how fortunate he wasn't.

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