

is the most unselfish country ever to play this role and that it has no other ambition than to live and let others live in mutually helpful international intercourse.

Whatever those of us who do not bear the arduous responsibility of this role may think from time to time of particular proposals, we Canadians are thankful that, both through experience and by instinct, the United States and its people are devoted to peace and freedom for themselves and for all others. As their close neighbours, we have special reason to know and appreciate the qualities of the American people, which have been reflected in the fundamental outlook of their Government over the years. Through the sound and fury of contemporary clamour and behind the blurred picture presented by films and popular magazines, we in Canada see millions of good people who are working hard and unselfishly to build a good and free society in a world of peace. These people differ little in their essential qualities from the great majority of people in your country or in mine, or, for that matter, in any country in the world.

Now I should like also to remind you that our collective defensive arrangement is a co-operative association of sovereign nations. As the United States Secretary of State said at the General Assembly of the United Nations last year, military force which is distributed throughout several countries cannot be used effectively unless all of the countries concerned are in agreement. He added, and his words, I assure you, apply to my country, "Such agreement would be totally unobtainable except for operations responsive to the clear menace of aggression." Those words reveal the essential nature of our collective arrangement with respect to the problem of security. Even if anyone were tempted to believe the false charges sometimes levelled at the United States, does anyone really believe that the United States could bring about aggressive or provocative collective action by the countries associated with it?

I can assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that the Government and people of Canada are every bit as anxious as your Government and people to ease international tension. Indeed, as has been amply proved by our actions during the past few years, we are continually bending our efforts in this direction; and many of these efforts have been in close harmony with yours. We have welcomed recent indications that an easing of international tension may be possible. This not only would bring the world closer to a condition of security; it would also enable all of us to devote a much larger share of our budgets to peaceful purposes and make larger amounts available for economic development in our countries.

If I may diverge for a moment to what are commonly known as colonial issues, as they are presented at the United Nations, I would like to make clear two points about the Canadian attitude. We welcome the advance of all dependent peoples toward self-government. At the same time, partly because our own evolution toward complete independence was no less successful for being gradual, we see a certain merit in proceeding in these matters at a pace which allows a firm foundation for self-government to be established.

It is with diffidence that I venture now to say a few words about the Canadian attitude toward Asian problems. Since it is only in recent years that the surge of events has caused us to become actively concerned with developments in