

be dominated by the United States culturally, economically and so on, that we must encourage relationships with other countries. And Europe is an obvious area. Europe itself is uniting, is becoming stronger, we have opportunities for trade. Our people come in general from Europe, there's an opportunity for exchange of culture, information, and so on. So that we look upon our contacts with Europe as a means of counterbalancing the United States. On the other hand, when it comes to the defence of Europe, we also believe that it is right that there should be a reassessment of the respective burdens and that Canada should be able to transfer more of its effort over to the North American wing of the North Atlantic Alliance, rather than on the spot in Europe, although our presence there is very important, as you know. The fact that we decided to stay in Europe was far more important than the number of troops.

Yet, in talking to some of your counterparts in the NATO Alliance in Europe, I gained the impression that at one time, perhaps a year and a half ago, the feeling was going around that Canada was pulling out.

Yes, well I think that has now been corrected. You know, this Government decided they were going to have a fundamental look at Canadian foreign policy and defence policy. And that we undertook. Very few countries are prepared to say: "Here is our defence and foreign policy, what do you think about it?" And we started and we looked at every aspect of it. We said: "Could we be neutral? Could we be non-aligned? Could we get along just with an alliance with the United States? Could we get along if we were in the alliance without any troops in being in Europe?" And we rejected all of those. And we came out in favour of continuing in an alliance with the United States in NATO and with troops, although a smaller number, in Europe. Now, having done that, we were a much more loyal and dependable member of the alliance than if all these questions were continuing to be raised.

Q. After this reappraisal of Canadian foreign policy--if I asked you to summarize your actual position after the reappraisal, how would you put it?

A. I think that the big change that has taken place is in how we look at our foreign policy. I'm conscious of the fact that before the review had been made many Canadians were saying: "Well, what is Canada's role in the world?" As a result of the foreign policy review and of the various assessments that have been made subsequently, people are now saying: "No, how do we best promote Canadian interests in the world?" If in the course of that we have a role to play, that's incidental. It isn't the purpose of our foreign policy to be the link between Europe and America or the conciliator or the compromiser or the fixer....