

Board on Defence, and finally in relation to the many Specialized Agencies in which we contribute to the solution of those functional problems that arise between nations.

I am sure you have heard it suggested many times that Canada is at one side of a triangle. We have interests and associations of great importance at one side with the United Kingdom and at the other side with the United States. Our foreign policy is inevitably conditioned by both influences. This does not mean that we do not have interests and important relations with other nations. For instance, we have a very special relationship with France. It does mean, however, that we always have to bear in mind how any action we may take can affect our relations with the United Kingdom and those with the United States.

Our relations with the United Kingdom are inseparably bound up with our attitude towards the Commonwealth of Nations. With the Commonwealth we have ties of blood and tradition which make it inconceivable that we should ever break away from that sometimes anomalous, always changing, and ever powerful grouping of free countries. Our independence within the Commonwealth has been gained by slow stages but now we stand on our own feet and have chosen to walk together with our fellow members.

In recent years the changes which have taken place in the Commonwealth have weakened the centralizing urge. As this has come about, Canada's hesitations have died away and we have found new vitality and new positive advantages in the Commonwealth. My three and a half years in London brought home to me more vividly than I ever realized before the benefits that we derive from close association with our fellow members in the Commonwealth. It provides a forum for us to consult together and exchange views so that the influence of each in world affairs is much greater by reason of the very fact of membership in the Commonwealth. It is difficult to over-estimate, for instance, the value of the information which we receive through this association.

Moreover, the Commonwealth has undergone recently a great change - a change which reflects credit on the good sense and genius of those who have been guiding the affairs of the leading Commonwealth countries. Shortly after I arrived in London there took place that conference in which the members gathered together for the purpose of considering in what manner India as a republic could remain within the Commonwealth. The solution that was found to the satisfaction of all made me conscious that I was witnessing an historic development.

Since then we have experiences, with increasing emphasis, how our position in the world has been helped by our Commonwealth association. As equal members with Ceylon, India and Pakistan we are able to consult with them about current happenings in world affairs. We are thus brought into contact with the mind of Asia. By reason of their great numbers the peoples of that continent are bound to be of increasing influence in the world of the future. That world as I see it is one in which all those parts which have not kept pace in economic development with Europe and North America will be seeking to attain as nearly as possible the same level of development in order to improve their standards of living. As they progress towards this goal these countries will become more important factors in determining the course of international affairs. It is indeed fortunate that we, remote as we are from Asia, are brought through the Commonwealth into close relations with leading countries of that continent. This is also the significance of our contribution to the Colombo Plan, for which we have appropriated \$25,000,000, both last year and this. The Commonwealth now symbolizes for us much more than our